PRESS CONFERENCES

OF

THE PRESIDENT

1942 -- JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

J. Romagna (PC's 834 to 870)
OFFICIAL REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #834
Executive Office of the President
July 7, 1942 -- 4.20 P.M., E.W.T.

Q Long time no see!

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Long time no see!

THE PRESIDENT: Long time.

Q Three weeks.

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid I am a bit rusty.

Q So are we.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q So are we.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I think we will manage to get along pretty well.

(pause here)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I hope that you have all had a "happy holiday" in the last two or three weeks. I have. (laughter) I have no news, because I have been so completely off the record during the short time passed.

Also, I am awfully glad to welcome here to the White House the guests, I think, of the National Press Club -- five distinguished journalists from Sweden. I hope that they will stay here long enough to become used to the manners and customs of the Americans. And perhaps, after they are -- I think it is tomorrow that the Press Club is giving a luncheon to them ---

Q (interposing) Today, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q They have had it today.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you have had it today. Then perhaps they may realize, if the Press Club asked questions, some of the trials and tribulations of a President. (laughter) I hope they will stay with us and go back and report to Sweden that we are working all-out toward the winning of this war.

I don't think I have got any news today at all.

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, could you tell us something about the new assignment you have in mind for Admiral (Wm. D.) Leahy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Not yet.

Q What about Mr. (Wm.) Phillips, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Have you anything on the new assignment for the -- for former Ambassador Phillips?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose that ought to be announced by somebody else. (laughter)

Q It has been decided then?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Something has been decided upon then?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better ask the employing source. (more laughter)

Q Could you direct us to that source?

THE PRESIDENT: I can say this: that I am awfully glad, as I know many of you are, that Bill Phillips is back on the job again.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about your talk with Mr. (Michael J.) Kennedy (Congressman for New York State) this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't even know what he said we talked about. (laughter)

Q (interjecting) I can give it to you, if you would like it.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So you see, Jim, I am at a positive disadvantage.

Q I will be glad to give you a fill-in line, Mr. President. "The President says he will support any liberal candidate selected by the leaders of New York State, providing he has supported his war policies one hundred percent before Pearl Harbor."

THE PRESIDENT: Period. (laughter)

Q That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: Very good.

Q It isn't "period," but I thought we would stop there and get an answer. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's all right.

Q That's all right. "And he (the President) predicts that if such a man is nominated by the Democratic Party of our State, he will beat Thomas E. Dewey very easily."

THE PRESIDENT: Period.

Q Okay?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Fine.

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

Q (continuing) Now, is there anything you can say in your own behalf? (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: End of the story.

Q But we can quote that okay?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q We can quote that okay?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's all right.

Q To go from New York to Kentucky, Senator A. B. Chandler is opposing John Young Brown. The Truman Committee is sending a man to Kentucky tonight to investigate charges Mr. Brown has made against Chandler. Mr. Brown has said that he has sent these charges to the White House. He also has said that when the President reads these charges he will want Mr. Brown to defeat Senator Chandler.

THE PRESIDENT: Ask Mac. (Secretary Marvin H. McIntyre) He comes from there.

MR. EARLY: He is over there, sir. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the negotiations to get the French warships out of Alexandria?

(the President made no oral reply)

Q Mr. President, can you give us, for the South American papers, a little idea of what you will do tonight -- what your program is with President (Alfonso) Lopez (President-elect of Colombia)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, he is an old friend of mine. We will have -- have a rather informal dinner of about 18 or 20 men -- stag dinner. And after he gets here we are going to have a good talk before dinner. And afterwards we are seeing the newsreels, and either Donald Duck or Mickey Mouse, I don't know which. And after that I think we are having some production pictures on the war effort.

Q Production pictures?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q War Production?

MR. EARLY: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Army -- Navy -- Maritime Commission, and so forth. And then probably talk to one or two o'clock in the morning.

Q Mr. President, do you expect to identify the man who fills your description for a New York candidate, any time in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. We haven't got to the picture-making period.

Q Mr. President, may we have the guest list of that dinner tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q May we have the guest list of that dinner tonight, for South America?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You will have to ask the Secret Service. They have got some kind of funny rules. (laughter) I would just as soon.

Q Mr. President, would a general wage increase in (Little) Steel interfere -- conflict with your anti-inflation program?

THE PRESIDENT: It will be a factor in increasing the cost of living.

Q Ergo?

THE PRESIDENT: What? No. That's obvious. That's copybook stuff.

Q Would you like to see the cost of living increased, sir? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you are getting to the kindergarten stage now. It's all right. Sure. (jokingly)

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, would you make any comment on the scrap rubber collection?

THE PRESIDENT: On the what?

Q The scrap rubber collection?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't heard anything for a couple of days. And at a guess I should say it is better than the lowest estimates, and not nearly as high as the highest estimates. And I should say that it is not the cure-all -- shall I say? -- that we are looking for.

Q There seems to be some question, Mr. President, as to how deeply people should dig before they discover how this rubber -- whether doormats that

still are usable should be contributed, or whether ---. For example, in one block on Connecticut Avenue, there are 32 different rubber doormats out in front. Would you recommend that they be turned in, or the fact that they are usable and must be replaced by something else ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, when experts disagree it is a little bit difficult to put it up to me. I would say, off-hand, that rubber in a floormat, or a doormat, can be used for the Army and Navy for a great many useful purposes. Let it go at that. I don't know whether you can make tires out of it, but there are lots of other things we need.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to make any sort of announcement soon on wage policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Would you say there is need for some sort of wage policy, or announcement of it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is pretty -- that is not a very specific question.

Q Would you say there is need, Mr. President, for some sort of standards for the War Labor Board -- specific standards following this decision -- request for wage increases?

THE PRESIDENT: The answer is Yes and No.

Q That, Mr. President, is not a very specific answer. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can write an editorial, or something like that. It's all right.

Q Mr. President, has the rubber collection gone far enough to make any decision on gasoline rationing?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Not yet.

Q Won't know until after July 10? Any idea how long it will be after that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Pete (Brandt), the only thing you can say is that we

are beginning to find out better where we stand. We are getting figures of supply in better shape, and figures of need in better shape. And I still cling to the hope that in some way a method -- not yet (having) been determined -- we can get a separation of the tire problem from the gas problem. Now, that is only a hope, because I haven't got the answer to it yet.

Q You said that the doormats might be used for something else?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Absolutely. As far as gas is concerned, you have got to get rubber for tires.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There are various other suggestions that have been made.

Q Do you mean by that, Mr. President, that you hope you can solve the rubber problem without gas rationing on a nation-wide basis?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, things aren't always "nation-wide basis." (pouring himself a glass of water) If I lived next to an oil well, and had a car with perfectly good tires on it, and had -- had some spares in the house for a while, I don't know -- I don't know why I shouldn't use the gas, if I had new tires on my car, that car being necessary to my business.

I don't think there is any particular use in talking about this subject, because you talk -- we can talk all day, and we would all be at "sixes and sevens." We wouldn't understand it, any more than most of us, individually, understand it all today. And very, very few people -- I haven't found anybody yet who did -- not one person. I couldn't write a story on it, and I suppose I have as much information as anybody in the room. We are trying to find ways and means.

As I said before, we separate the problem of gasoline in certain portions of the country, and the problem of the shortage of rubber in all

portions of the country. And it has some of the elements of trying to give a total figure in adding up apples and tomatoes. You can't give a total figure unless you use both those names.

MISS MAY CRAIG: (interposing) Well, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) What we are trying to do is separate them.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, do you think that you can restrict the use of cars to business except by gasoline rationing?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's a question of how long the tires are going to last in the country. We may have to take all the tires in the country. Suppose -- suppose this war gets worse? Is the country going to go without tires or not? I don't know. How can I tell? You see, a question like yours is very apt to lead to that kind of an answer. I don't know. You don't know. I may have to take every automobile tire in the United States, if things get worse than they are at the present time. I am trying to save this country, not to save tires or save gas.

MISS MAY CRAIG: (interposing) No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I am trying to save the nation, and the nation is perfectly willing to make any sacrifice that it is called on to make in order to save the nation.

MISS MAY CRAIG: My question was directed to an attempt to force the use of cars for business only, and not for pleasure.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that of course -- the whole trend is that way, necessarily. It is what we are working for, and have been for a long time. Nothing new in that.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook IX-PC -- Page 77 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #835
Executive Office of the President
July 17, 1942 -- 10.45 A.M.,E.W.T.

MR. SIMMONS: (to the President) Do you want to turn the flag on, Mr. President? (referring to an American flag on a four-foot staff, which could be made to wave by turning on an electric fan at its base)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, turn the flag on. Very happy thought. (then seeing May Craig) Don't you wish you were in Maine?

MISS MAY CRAIG: May be, next week. Do you?

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) Hello, little stranger. I am glad to see you. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Little stranger! I ain't so little.

(May Craig then showed the President a cartoon in a magazine, the cartoon having no caption, but a sign "Is Your Journey Really Necessary?")

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) That's right.

MR. GODWIN: (who spied the flag waving) Oh, look't there.

Q What makes it go?

Q Air coming up from the fan.

(pause here)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Strange dearth of news this morning. The only thing I have is a report from Mr. (Edward R.) Stettinius (Jr.) -- Lend-Lease -- on the 30th of June, showing that during the month of June the amount of Lend-Lease aid to the United Nations, and other countries eligible, was 708 million dollars. This was the highest monthly total in the

16 months of Lend-Lease operations. Aid in May was 662 million dollars. Total Lend-Lease aid from the beginning of the program, March 11, 1941, to June 30, 1942, was 5 billion, 205 million dollars. Of this total 59% was goods transferred, 24% articles in process, and 17% various services performed here and abroad. I haven't got any other break-down on it. You can give them that, Bill (Hassett), if they want it.

Q Mr. President, there have been stories printed constantly that you are going to say something in behalf of (Senator) Jim Mead. (re the coming New York State gubernatorial election) Is that correct?

THE PRESIDENT: I have absolutely no news on it. I have read all kinds of fool stories about some contest for leadership, and so forth. I don't know anything about it, Jim. I am too damn busy being President. Leave out the "damn." (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Stories, sir, are also current that you intend to communicate with Congress on the subject of inflation, a possible more rigid control ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That whole thing is under study.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us, sir, about your conversation yesterday with Philip Murray (C.I.O. president)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we discussed that as part of the study I was just referring to.

Q May we ask you, sir, did you discuss specifically the Little Steel 44¢ wage increase?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Part of it. Yes. I don't think there is any news on it.

Q At your last Press Conference, sir, we asked you if a general wage increase in steel would conflict with your anti-inflation program. You answered that it would be a factor in increasing the cost of living.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) Can you tell us your reaction to the (War Labor) Board's ruling?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The -- of course in a case like -- an article like -- this is one of the problems that people ought to understand -- an article like steel, the -- an increase of 5% in wages does not force up the cost of living, obviously, nearly as much as it would in the case of wages in a canning factory, for example, that makes food. The whole thing is relative. Yet the whole thing must be kept as far as possible -- in all industries -- as much in line as possible.

Q Mr. President, in this case, Mr. Davis told us yesterday that the important point here was that a general policy had been worked out as to bring equity to the workers who haven't received any pay increase since the first of last year.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q Now, would you comment on the policy ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is under study too. That is part of the complexity between various industries. Remembering always, and this you have to keep in your head, the most important and essential policies -- in fact it might be called almost the basis of all policies and details, and that is to keep the cost of living from going up. In other words, thinking about what it costs the average worker and the average family to live. That is the one criterion we always have to keep in front of our minds.

Q Mr. President, has your study revealed whether this wage increase can be absorbed without any increase in price?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not yet. I am looking into things of that kind. Those are details.

Q Mr. President, there have also been reports that you have been studying the Canadian system, which only has a basic budget of 25 dollars a week ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- Is it part of the study?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, can you say something about your talks with President-Elect (Alfonso Lopez) of Colombia?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Except, of course, he was a very old friend of mine, and we talked over many things, not only relations between Colombia and the United States -- which are proceeding in an excellent way -- but also the general relationship among all the 21 Republics. I should say that the outstanding feature is the very great unanimity of thought, not just as illustrated by my talks with him, but as illustrated also with many other talks I have had with other heads of other governments to the south of us.

Q You mean the unanimity of thought on the world situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked about that too. Again, unanimity.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the specific assignment of Lauch(lin) Currie in going over to China?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He has been there before. Just another trip.

Q Mr. President, one report was published this morning that you probably would send a Message to Congress sometime next week on boosting the

anti-inflation program?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got -- frankly, I have no idea at all.

Q Mr. President, has any decision been reached on the 18-to-19 year old boys ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No. And it's unlikely at this time.

Q Mr. President, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Sir, ---

Q (continuing) Have you ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Go ahead.

Q (continuing) --- decided on a job yet for Admiral Leahy?

THE PRESIDENT: That is under study.

Q I beg your pardon?

THE PRESIDENT: That is under study too.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) May I ask you -- I am not quite sure ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You might get something on that soon.

MR. GODWIN: I am not quite sure what you said about the 18 and 19 year old ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think you can expect anything on that soon. I think you can on Admiral Leahy.

Q Thank you, sir.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook IX-PC - page 97 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #836
Executive Office of the President
July 21, 1942 -- 4.05 P.M.,E.W.T.

(the President was wearing a short-sleeved shirt, for the first time in Press Conference)

Q (aside) That shirt is an innovation.

Q (aside) What's that, rayon?

(pause here)

(the President began reading some typed sheets before him, on the subject of scrap rubber)

THE PRESIDENT: Mac, I think it had better be given out just the way it is.

MR. McINTYRE: Mr. Hassett has done so already, Mr. President.

MR. HASSETT: It's all ready, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got -- actually I have something today.

Number one: Admiral (Wm. D.) Leahy has been ordered to active duty, and to be Chief of Staff of the Commander In Chief. He takes on the duties immediately.

Then Number two: I have here -- Bill (Hassett) has the thing all copied for you -- the report of William R. Boyd, Jr., Chairman of the Petroleum Industry War Council -- two pages -- the gist of which is that they have collected during this scrap rubber drive 454 thousand, 155 tons of scrap rubber, which is a net addition to the Government's stock pile of 454 thousand, 150 tons more. I only just got it this minute. I haven't even finished reading it, but Bill will give it to you as soon as you go out.

Number three: The Secretary of State (Cordell Hull) was in this morning, and I went over with him a statement -- what might be called a speech -- which he is going to deliver on the air, I hope in the next two or three days, on the general subject of the seriousness of the war, what the winning of the war means, what victory will mean to human security, and liberty, and civilization, including the seriousness of all that those things mean to every man, woman and child, not only in this country but throughout the world.

And he showed me the draft of what he is going to say, and all I can say is that it is a very able and conclusive summary of the present world situation. And as I say, that will be delivered in the course of the next two or three days.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us what the scope of Admiral Leahy's ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Chief of Staff.

Q (continuing) --- position will be?

THE PRESIDENT: Chief of Staff. I think that's all that's necessary.

Q Will he have the staff of the Army, Navy and Air also under him?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got the foggiest idea; and it has nothing to do with the "price of eggs."

Q Well, sir, will he be Chief of Staff of the United Nations strategic command?

THE PRESIDENT: He will be Chief of Staff to the Commander In Chief.

Q Mr. President -- Mr. President, could you throw any light on the stories which are emanating from London today, telling of meetings between (Prime Minister Winston) Churchill and some unnamed American personages, all leading, apparently, to a second front?

THE PRESIDENT: (almost inaudibly) No. No. None at all, No. Haven't even

seen it.

Q (aside) What did he say?

Q (aside) No.

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, what can we do to relieve some of this German pressure on Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't tell you if I -- I won't say if I could, because I could. I won't tell you. Obviously, that is -- the question shouldn't be asked or answered. (laughter)

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, do you plan to freeze wages?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q No?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you plan to ask Congress to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now, wait a minute -- wait a minute. (laughter) If anything will be said, it will be said in a Message to Congress very soon.

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I couldn't tell you ahead of time, but as I say ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, having seen the scrap rubber figures, can you give us any indication now as to whether there will be a need for nation-wide gasoline rationing?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to give you an off-the-record hint on that: Don't talk gas in the same terms as rubber. It's about the third or fourth time I have said that.

Q Mr. President, last Friday, Senator (T. F.) Green (of Rhode Island) said that he had asked you to make a clarifying statement as far as rationing was concerned. Have you any comment on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you probably will hear something about rubber in the course of -- what? -- the next couple of weeks.

MR. G. DURNO: From you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. G. DURNO: From you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know yet, George. Maybe.

Q Mr. President, now that they have got this rubber, what are they going to do with it?

THE PRESIDENT: (very promptly) Use it. (laughter)

Q (continuing) There's all kinds of rubber in there, from floor mats to pure rubber. Any plans being made to -- to separate it, to find out what you have got?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Because none of you boys or girls in this room -- nor I -- know enough about the technical side of it to be able to tell.

Q (interposing) Are they going to call in ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Write about it, of course, but we don't know. (laughter)

Q Are you going to call in the technical men ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- to find out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q Any idea when we will get a report on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Within a -- within a couple of weeks.

MR. J. M. MINIFIE: Mr. President, does the appointment of Admiral Leahy as

Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief mean that the Commander In Chief will take a more active direction of the strategic conduct of the war -- world war?

THE PRESIDENT: That will be almost impossible. (loud laughter)

Q Could you tell us any more about the Admiral's duties as Commander -- as Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, whatever -- put it this way: whatever's necessary from the point of view of the Commander in Chief. Now, as a matter of fact, I wouldn't go guessing around about things, in assigning more importance to this than it really deserves.

I have -- the reason I asked -- I answered brother Minifie's question that way was that, of course, I do spend an awful lot of time on it, from the American point of view. And at the same time, in so doing, there are all kinds of things that I have to read, all kinds of opinions that I have to get, and do get, and it takes a very long time. It takes a great deal of time, which after a pretty careful survey for 7 months, I should say could -- I should be helped to save, by somebody else doing an awful lot of leg-work, and indexing work, and summarizing work, and at the same time somebody in whose judgment I have got a good deal of real confidence. And it is going to save me a great many hours of work ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and all kinds of tasks -- instead of doing them myself, finding out about things -- if I can get somebody else to do the leg-work.

Q That implies -- does that imply he would have a few people working for him -- on the cards?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Mr. President, you said he would be called back to active duty. What will be his title, Admiral?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, he is permanently an Admiral.

Q He is permanently an Admiral?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because, you see, he -- what was it? -- he retired when he was Chief of Operations, and automatically when you retire as such you keep your title.

Q Keep the title.

Q Mr. President, isn't that a rather unprecedented position? Will that require Senate confirmation of the appointment, or is it purely in your executive ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. An order -- an order to duty. Just a naval order, that's all.

Q He will definitely be Chief of Staff ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Of the Commander In Chief. (laughter)

Q Yes, sir.

Q Of the Army and Navy, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Of the Commander In Chief. (more laughter)

Q (aside) Getting nowhere fast.

THE PRESIDENT: You see, the Army has got a Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Navy has the equivalent Chief of Operations of the Navy, which is practically the same thing as the Chief of Staff.

Q Mr. President, you attached an "if" a while ago to the remark about -- if anything would be said it will be said in a Message to Congress soon.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) Can we definitely count on that Message in the next few days?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. I hope so.

Q Do you expect to see the Congressional Leaders tomorrow on that subject, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet. I haven't worked out the schedule. Some of them, maybe.

Q Mr. President, is this going to be confined to the one subject, or is this going to be a cover-all on the problems involved in the war picture now?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean this Congressional thing?

Q The Message, Yes.

Q The Message.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it will relate to what I described on -- back -- Oh, what was it? -- the 27th of April, domestically -- one of the very great essentials in the war, which was to keep a thumb on the cost of living, because that goes into every home and every club in the country.

Q Well, I meant you aren't going to make this a general discussion of the war picture?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. This is the principal domestic problem in carrying on the war. Of course a lot of other things are dependent on it, that's true. This is the first real essential.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you could tell us about Mr. (Lauchlin) Currie's visit to China?

THE PRESIDENT: The second one. (laughter) That's about all I can say.

Q (aside) Let's go.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I gave them plenty today.

(Notebook IX-PC -- page 103 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #837
Executive Office of the President
July 24, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

(Admiral Wm. D. Leahy, newly appointed Chief of Staff to the Commander In Chief, was present at this Press Conference for the first time)

Q Good morning, sir.

MR. GODWIN: (sitting down) I am the sheriff. (referring to a policeman's badge he was wearing)

(pause here)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I can dig up today is an Executive Order, which I am going to sign, but have not yet signed, in relation to the War Relief Control Board, with the object of giving them some further powers over the national war relief drives, so as to unify the work and prevent duplication and cut down the -- it's always a serious thing with any kind of a war relief drive -- cut down the overhead.

They have accomplished a great deal already. In -- since 1940 the Board tells me that they have -- these foreign war relief agencies have raised about 96 million dollars. And as a result of the activity of the Board, the costs of soliciting and administrating these drives has been materially reduced.

However, we don't want too great a multiplicity of soliciting all around the country, and that is the objective of this Executive Order, making it, of course, perfectly clear that they have no authority in connection with local efforts for local charitable purposes of a normal character. They -- it confers all jurisdiction as far as possible

to interested activities. In other words, you might almost say regional, or national activities of war relief agencies of all kinds, excepting the Red Cross, and excepting certain religious activities. It is merely in the interest of saving money and cutting down the overhead, and the multiplicity of these things.

Q Who is in charge of it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Davies. (Joseph Davies, former U.S. Ambassador to Russia)

Q Joe Davies?

THE PRESIDENT: Joe Davies, Yes.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Q Can you tell us now about how the inflation situation stands, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got any news on that at the present time at all.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, have you any comment on the action of the Senate in taking the synthetic rubber production away from the War Production Board?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so, Pete, at this time. It hasn't passed yet.

MR. P. BRANDT: It has passed the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. P. BRANDT: (continuing) It's later to pass the House.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what I would do. I haven't even read it.

Q Mr. President, have you asked Justice (Harlan F.) Stone to make a rubber survey for you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I consulted with Justice Stone, but didn't ask him to make a rubber survey.

Q What did you ask him to do, could you tell us, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Consulted him. (laughter)

ACB 3-4-57

Q Could you tell us, sir, if you intend to ask him to make any rubber survey?

THE PRESIDENT: I doubt it.

Q Mr. President, are you going to discuss the cancellation of the Higgins' contract with Mr. Higgins? [Andrew ?] (Arthur J. Higgins, president of the Higgins Shipbuilding Corporation, New Orleans, La.)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. It hasn't come up to me yet.

Q Mr. President, are you going to see Mr. (Henry J.) Kaiser when he comes here next week, about the possibility of his plan to turn (his shipyards into the making of flying boats) ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That I don't know.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: I don't think we know much, either.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: We don't know much either. (laughter) Russ Young made me a cop -- a policeman today.

THE PRESIDENT: (looking at the badge) Say, isn't that -- look at that! -- Metropolitan Police. Does it say "ornery" or "honorary"?

MR. GODWIN: Honorary.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, excuse me! (laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #838,
Executive Office of the President,
July 28, 1942 -- 4.05 P.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to May Craig) May!

MISS MAY CRAIG: Campobello.

THE PRESIDENT: Have you been up on the coast yet?

MISS MAY CRAIG: Campobello. Pretty.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MISS MAY CRAIG: It's nice there.

THE PRESIDENT: It must be nice.

(pause here)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I wanted to mention in passing that I hope you will give a good word on this national scrap salvage campaign, which is starting this week. And I understand that there is over 2 million dollars worth of advertising promotion that is being put out by private industry, so that everybody in this country can realize the fact that we are in the middle of this -- starting, rather, this scrap salvage campaign.

In other words, the problem of raw materials is in many ways a serious limiting factor on war production and the supply of scrap of all kinds.

(here the President dropped a lighted cigarette he was holding in his left hand, and stooped down to pick it up) I have dropped a cigarette. I am burning up! I have burnt the carpet! (laughter) Now I am all right.

And the supply of scrap is a tremendous influence on all production. The more scrap the bigger the supply of all kinds of materials,

including planes and guns and tanks. And this is an appeal to the people all through the country -- cities and farms -- to get the average home-owner, or the average small store-keeper -- or big store-keeper -- to dig through the attic and the cellar and the backyard, and every other place, and see if you can find some kind of scrap -- well, metal scrap of all kinds, and rubber scrap. Of course, we know that there is still a lot of rubber scrap in the country that hasn't yet been turned in. It's a very simple thing to find where to turn it in -- locally designated depots, junk dealers, any other place, because those people know that it is needed in the normal channels of manufacturing, and that includes things like waste fats that are -- can be sold to meat markets that are cooperating with this program.

And I think at the present time there are -- while the country realizes we are at war, I am not dead sure how close it has come to the home life of the individual family. And here is a very good test, a chance to have every family in the country search through and find things that they may have said before, "The Government doesn't want that. The Government isn't interested in this," and so forth.

And when in doubt dig it out, and turn it in. The chances are it will be worth something. We all know one -- one, for instance, one simple little thing, an awful lot of rags lying around. We can do a lot of things with rags. Assume, in other words, that the thing is needed now. By the doctrine of chance, it probably is needed. Turn it in.

I don't think Steve -- Steve, got any more for me?

MR. EARLY: Not a thing, sir.

Q Mr. President, after Leon Henderson left you this morning, he spent almost

an hour with Sam Rosenman. He said he left him (Sam Rosenman) some memoranda on wages and prices. Is Mr. -- Judge Rosenman preparing some special ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q (continuing) --- report?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q How does he figure in this, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that he is a "collector" of information, and a "boiler-down" of information.

Q Have your plans on the general control of the price situation now progressed to a point where you can say ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I am still boiling down information, that's all.

Q Nothing yet?

Q Nothing you can say at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not a thing.

Q Mr. President, there seems to be increasing emphasis -- on the Higgins connection and others -- about a shortage of steel. Can you tell us anything about the steel production and supply situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I can say it's just the way it has been from the beginning for a long, long time. We have had a shortage of steel and most other things for a whole year, and it is continuing, because we are making more all the time. Where we filled up a shortage a year ago we have another shortage caused by more need.

Q Mr. President, did you talk prices and wages with the Vice President too today?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Did we or didn't we? We talked about almost everything.

I don't think we did. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, are you endorsing (Congressman) Joe Casey (Joseph E.) in this Democratic Primary in Massachusetts?

THE PRESIDENT: Not endorsing anybody, in any primary, anywhere.

Q Mr. President, are you going to have any further statement on Senator (James M.) Mead's candidacy in New York (State)?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't hear. What?

Q Are you going to have any further statement on Senator Mead's candidacy in New York?

THE PRESIDENT: I have absolutely no information, because I know nothing more about it than I have known for the last two or three weeks -- not a thing.

I might add -- this is all off the record, this particular part of it -- nobody can get my goat. (laughter) In other words -- off the record -- I am much too old a hand to have people try to get my goat. It doesn't work. It has been tried very often. It doesn't even get my goat. When cartoons come out in a certain type of paper, not intimating but saying very definitely that I am spending a lot of war-time work on New York politics -- well, of course, without mentioning any type of paper -- (laughter) -- there are not many of them -- of course, it is pure fabrication, which is a frightfully polite term to use for that kind of thing.

Q (interjecting) Is that off the record, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh, Yes -- all off the record. But it doesn't get my goat. It will continue just as long as we have a free Press in this country. They are entitled to fabricate. They are entitled to use falsehoods. Why, sure, we are all for it, because we are for that

kind of a free Press. (laughter) You see? -- everybody's happy. So that's all there is to that.

I suppose -- this is still off the record -- I suppose that in the past -- what? -- two or three months, I suppose, all told -- and in non-working time -- I suppose I have spent altogether 15 minutes on New York politics. Now that's an amazing thing, because it is perfectly natural and you are perfectly entitled to do it.

I had a fellow come in the other day. He came in to lunch with me -- I always try lunch-time to get away from the job -- I think it happened to be the Governor of New York. And we talked from about a quarter-past one to about two about various things -- national problems and things.

And just as he was getting up, he said, "By the way, what do you think I should do about Charlie Poletti?" And -- I have forgotten what I said, it doesn't make any difference -- neither here nor there -- (loud and prolonged laughter). And I gave him this illustration. I said something -- I have forgotten now what, and he said, "Yes, I agree with you" -- and went out. I think it was one question, one answer, and the statement, "Yes, I agree with you."

Now probably a lot of those people, who are writing under orders -- (laughter) -- would say that I had talked New York State politics with him for three-quarters of an hour because I happened to be lunching for three-quarters of an hour. That is why it's no use saying don't write assumptions, because -- Heavens above! -- you have to write assumptions, true or not true. Now, there's a very good illustration of -- what shall I say? -- not my problems, No -- your problems. (laughter)

MR. J. WRIGHT: Well, Mr. President, there has been one interview of yours that hasn't been confirmed yet, and that is the one that Mr. Mead quoted you on.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's right. I told him that.

Now, Jim, there is another illustration. Jim Mead came in and I suppose he was -- what? -- 20 minutes. But of those 20 minutes, 18 minutes was out in Mac's office (M. H. McIntyre), and I don't know what happened out in Mac's office. He spent just two minutes in here, and he said, "I am running. I have announced." I said, "I saw it in the paper." He said, "What have you got to say?" I told him, and he went out and told you. Two minutes out of 18 (20) on New York politics.

Q Mr. President, your confirmation that Senator Mead said what you told him is on the record, isn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. That's right. That's right.

Q Mr. President, have you decided what you are going to do about this new rubber agency bill -- the setting up of a separate agency ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I am working on the thing now. And, I don't know -- I will give you a lead. The lead is: the chances are it will get vetoed. (laughter)

Q Do you plan, sir, any move on your own part, aside from that bill to consolidate control over rubber?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I am planning a move on my part.

Q In addition to the veto, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: In regard -- in addition to the veto.

Q That's what I mean.

Q Mr. President, may we quote you directly on "The chances are -- the chances are it will get vetoed"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can we quote you directly on planning the additional move?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q Can you tell us what that move is, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (laughter) You are getting too nosy.

Q Not even a lead, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, there were reports that you were going to name a committee, with or without Justice (Harlan F.) Stone. Is that being considered?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't -- I tell you -- this is off the record. I don't know yet. I am working on it -- something like that -- not quite.

Q Mr. President, in regard to the scrap campaign, you said you were not sure how close realization of the war had come to the home and family. Could you elaborate on that a little for us?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think that speaks for itself. I think that's enough.

Q Do you think they realize the seriousness of the situation confronting us?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a different thing. They realize the seriousness of the situation by the way the situation touches the individual in the United States. I don't think that that has gone as far as it is going to go.

And -- what shall I say? -- this is background: let's take, for instance, the question of meat. There are certain areas in the country where there is a -- what is called a shortage of meat. Well, there are three reasons for it. And we are going to have a lot more of it, because when you go to the Press Club for a supper, or lunch, you are going to find a lot of things that you want to eat that are not

there for you to eat. Now that hasn't caught on to people yet. It's going to, without any question. And there are certain reasons for it.

Let's take the illustration of meat, which is short today in some places in the country. The three reasons are: Number one, that this is the off-season for beef. I don't understand why, but that's a -- a technical fact. Go and ask a packer, he can tell you.

The second reason is that people have got a lot more money today, a great deal more on the average. So what do they do? They eat more, and they eat better cuts.

And the third reason is that we have got, I suppose somewhere around 4 million men under arms, and those boys in the Army and Navy and Marine Corps eat more meat in the Service than if they were home. Furthermore, we have to provide their meat by buying it a long time ahead of the time that they consume it. We have got a great many men over-seas. They have to buy the meat when it is killed, maybe six months, eight months, ten months -- we have refrigeration -- before it is consumed. Therefore, during the past year we have not only had the current consumption of meat, but in addition to that we have been buying meat that won't be consumed for another six months for people who will eat more meat than they did before they went into the Services.

And I think that when the country understands these needs, they will realize also that there is going to be a shortage of this, that and the other thing, caused primarily by the war-- trying to win the war -- and that they will be very glad to make the sacrifice that is entailed by a shortage of this, that or the other thing. There is plenty of food to go around. Don't worry about that.

I, for instance, -- I love caviar better than anything in the

world. (laughter) I haven't had any caviar for a very, very long time. Well, it isn't essential to keeping my body and soul together, so I call it a sacrifice. You people have all got some particular pet thing that you love. There may be a shortage of it. Well, you are going to say, "All right. There is a shortage of this, that and the other thing that I love." And you are going to stand for it, and smile and take it.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, have you received a letter from the Governor of Maine (Sumner Sewall, Republican) suggesting that the Civil Air Patrol convoy tankers and colliers up the New England coast?

THE PRESIDENT: May, I did get the letter quite a while ago, and it has gone somewhere to get an answer prepared -- where, the Lord only knows.

Q Mr. President, do you want us to use that "four million men"? We haven't been using numbers of troops. Shall we leave that number in?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. (turning to Mr. Early)

MR. EARLY: I will check on it, but all those figures have been announced, sir. There was no breakdown on the Services.

THE PRESIDENT: I mean it may be -- it may be half a million, or less than half a million more. I think it's all right.

MR. EARLY: I think it's all right.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's all right. It's a very rough, general figure.

Q Mr. President, have you any comment on the reports that you may be advocating building the Florida Barge Canal?

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of that one.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you could say on the Russian situation at present?

THE PRESIDENT: Which situation?

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Russian.

Q The Russian situation?

(the President shook his head slowly in reply)

Q Mr. President, have you had a minute or two to think about the Texas Senatorial election last Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #839
Executive Office of the President
August 4, 1942 -- 4.10 P.M.,E.W.T.

Q Mr. President!

THE PRESIDENT: Hello.

MR. GODWIN: Hello.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, how is the judge?

MR. GODWIN: What judge?

THE PRESIDENT: Eh?

MR. GODWIN: What judge?

THE PRESIDENT: Aren't you judicially minded?

Q We all are today.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q We all are today.

MR. GODWIN: I am not a bit judicial. You mean Judge Lynch, that's what you mean?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. I have got two or three candidates for you.

MR. GODWIN: Wouldn't we have a good time if we didn't have to buy, buy?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q (aside) Who is that?

Q (aside) Dave Nilæs (David K. Niles, newly appointed Administrative Assistant to the President, at his first Press Conference)

Q (aside) It was announced Saturday.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: If you want to jot this down, it's just two little -- three little tiny sentences, and you can use it as quotes. It's in regard to the trial.

(reading): Under the order setting up the Military Commission, the President was constituted as the reviewing authority in respect to the verdict of the Commission. I am now in the process of reviewing the evidence, which is voluminous. And I will have finished within two or three days.

MR. GODWIN: May I ask a question?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think on that.

MR. GODWIN: Well, a question of procedure. Who passes the sentence on it, you or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. GODWIN: Does the verdict include a sentence?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I can tell you any more about it.

MR. GODWIN: Pardon me?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I can tell you any more about it.

Q Mr. President, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Is that ---

Q (continuing) --- how will the announcement be made?

THE PRESIDENT: It will be made, I think, either by me direct, or through Steve (Early), Yes.

Q Through Steve?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Was that an improper question? It seemed to me to be just a ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, you see, ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- it amazes me -- I don't want to get into something I shouldn't.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- you see, the -- it's awfully difficult to go into a terminology. We've had -- we have had from the Commission a

report and a verdict. Now that's all I can say about it.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: We have had that.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, can you say this much? Are you seeking any legal advice in reviewing this, or are you the sole reviewing authority yourself?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you can say anything about that at all, for this reason. This has to be kept off the record. There are a good many phases to this. And of course, naturally, I would discuss the matter -- put it that way -- with different people.

Q May we assume that on our own authority, for story purposes?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Yes, if you limit it to -- what? -- we discuss the matter -- discuss the whole thing, or portions thereof, with different people. I think that's all right to say.

Q Mr. President, as you are undoubtedly aware, there has been a lot of comment about the length of time it has taken to go through all these legal processes. Do you care to comment, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think most of the press comment has been awfully good on that, because the press comment has pointed out that this is a nation of laws, and the people carry out the preservation of society through legal means. And that so far this very serious case, happening in a time of war, has been carried out through the processes which we call the American processes of justice. And of course that takes time.

Now, as you know, I am not telling you how many pages there are, but as you know, the actual court sessions lasted for a long time. That seems pretty obvious that what they call the "record" must be a

pretty lengthy record. I got the "record" -- the whole case -- yesterday afternoon, about half-past five. Well, I have been working on it since then. As I say, I think I will have finished my labors within two or three days.

Q Are you more or less, sir, putting everything else aside during that period ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, No ---

Q (continuing) --- concentrating ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Oh My, No.

Q Mr. President, Mahatma (Mohandas K.) Gandhi has held a Press Conference in Bombay, at which he suggests that the American government persuade the British to get out of India. I don't suppose you would care to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I -- (laughter interrupting) --- what do they call it? -- I couldn't do it properly.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, when may we expect the veto Message on the rubber ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Pete, I hope to get it done -- I hope to get it up there by Thursday.

Q Will it be an exposition of the rubber situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think any human being in the country could do it ---

Q (interjecting) You are the expert.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- with the present information.

Q (interposing) Will you send with it, sir, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's -- what is the -- what was it? -- brands -- the 57 different varieties -- Mr. Heinz.

MR. GODWIN: Heinz.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there are a great many more different varieties of experts on rubber than there are of Heinz' pickles. (laughter)

Q Sir, will you send with it any of these documents that you are getting from Judge Rosenman?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't got any documents.

Q You haven't had any?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have had a lot of letters from those 557 different varieties of experts, plus a self-appointed 5 thousand 557 more.

Q Mr. President, some people up in New England don't think that they are getting enough tank cars under this order to bring fuel oil and gasoline into the Seaboard.

THE PRESIDENT: Can they find any more? It would be grand if they could. We would use them and take the oil to New England, if they will dig up some, because we can't rob Peter to pay Paul.

Q Well, (Ralph K.) Davies asked for another 5 thousand this morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Who did?

Q Mr. Davies.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Davies.

MR. GODWIN: The oil man.

Sir, have you been in on the argument, or the discussions, with respect to the large flying freight cars, as I call them, with respect to their use, or priorities?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Have you anything to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, they have been working on it for quite -- for a long, long time, two or three -- Oh, what? -- No, more than that -- five or six months. There again, the old adage about robbing Peter

to pay Paul.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's an issue. It's a question on all these things. We would give anything in the world to have more flying freight cars. When it becomes a question, certainly none of us but the military experts can decide which are the most important, if you can't have both.

Q Mr. President, what is the situation on your inflation studies?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we are at it ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- as hard as we can.

Q (aside) What did he say?

Q In that connection, sir, is the Canadian method of controlling, or attempting to control, the cost of living receiving any attention?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh, Yes. Oh My, Yes. It has been from the very beginning of it, ---

Q (interposing) Could you tell us what ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- only in some ways it works pretty well, and in other ways it hasn't worked so well. And you always have to remember that you can't, without sloppy thinking -- you can't take the comparison of a nation that has about 10 million --- 10 or 11 million people, and take it lock, stock and barrel and make it work -- even if it has worked for 10 or 11 million people -- and make it work for 130 million. That is something that is very often forgotten.

Q Are we trying to modify the Canadian plan to make it work?

THE PRESIDENT: It's being studied, with a great many other plans.

Q Mr. President, getting back to the flying box cars, is there any serious

consideration being given to making those large planes of non-critical materials -- plastics?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh -- what?

Q Plywood?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Plywood?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. They have been working on plywood, to my knowledge, for the last -- last couple of years. It's good for some purposes -- won't work for others.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Was it the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) They have been working on things like balsam wood ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Was it the engines?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- light woods of various kinds.

(to Mr. Godwin) Yes! For instance, there you are. You put your finger right on it. I don't think you can make an airplane engine out of balsam wood. (laughing) Thanks very much for the idea.

Q Is it a choice, Mr. President, between bombers and the cargo plane, or a choice between the cargo plane and perhaps the materials that go into tanks and ships?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't any of those things. It's all of them put together. Relative priorities, graded according to the essential needs, determined by the people who are supposed to know most about fighting. And then, off the record, neither myself nor editorial desks. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, in New Orleans today Andrew Jackson Higgins (Higgins Shipbuilding Corporation) told a House Committee that he had been buying steel on the "black market," at something like 18 tons at a crack, and

that he had been buying from people who knew in advance what his steel requirements were. I wonder if you think that ought to be investigated?

THE PRESIDENT: I think most surely. I think those people ought to go to jail.

Q Including Mr. Higgins, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because he would be State's evidence. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, if we could go back to the tank cars for New England, New England Congressional delegations say that if the Midwest were rationed, there would be more tank cars for New England.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. You ought to go to somebody that could tell you that. I don't.

Q Everybody tells you different. (laughter)

Q With regard to rubber, Mr. President, is Judge Rosenman making a survey for you?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about this?

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: Judge Lynch!

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #840
Executive Office of the President
August 7, 1942 -- 10.40 A.M.,E.W.T.

(Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of The Netherlands was a guest at this Press Conference)

(as the newspapermen came in, the President and the Queen were both standing behind chairs in front of the desk. Mrs. Roosevelt was also present, and stood to the right of the Queen, with other aides of the President)

THE PRESIDENT: (to the Queen) I can really see them now. I very rarely see more than the front row.

VOICE IN THE REAR: Step right up, gentlemen, please. Come right in, gentlemen. Move right along, please.

(pause here as newspapermen continued to come in)

(many and varied whispered comments from the newspaper men and women as to what the Queen was wearing)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that you good people have had any advance notice of this, but Her Majesty consented to come here today, not to be asked questions but to have The White House Correspondents' Association presented to her.

I think you all know that The Netherlands and this country have most of their ideals in common. And it is a very interesting, and a very wonderful thing to know that constitutionally in The Netherlands and in this country freedom of expression, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press are a part of the government. They are recognized by the constitutions of both of our nations.

And I can only say that in these past three days, all of us -- the Congress, the Government -- the Executive branch -- and I think the press -- have been made very happy by the presence of this really great head of a government as our guest -- head of an Allied Nation, who is seeing this war through with us.

And so I present all of you gentlemen, and ladies, to Her Majesty, the Queen of The Netherlands. And I have -- (applause) -- and I have asked her, and she has graciously consented, to say a few words to The White House Correspondents' Association.

(applause for the Queen)

HER MAJESTY QUEEN WILHELMINA: I am indebted to the President for inviting to me -- me to his conference -- (press) and radio conference, having thus been given the occasion to voice my admiration of all the work the members of the American press and radio have done, not only in the past and happier years, but especially since the outbreak of the present war. I have had the opportunity to read and listen to reports from men and women who are actually in the many scenes of combat with the enemy, and who with complete disregard of their own safety gather their information for the sake of truth and public enlightenment.

The mission of the press and radio is one of great responsibility, more so now than ever, when the future of the world and civilization is in the balance. Its fulfillment is dependent on freedom of speech and a free press -- two conditions no dictator ever grants.

In this country, like in all parts of my country, both rights are constitutionally guaranteed and deeply ingrained in the life of the nation. Where occupation has temporary abolished them, defeat of

the enemy will see them restored. At present, wherever freedom of speech and press continue to exist, the contribution which press and radio make to the effort of those upon whose shoulders has been placed the sacred duty to lead Democracy to victory is of immense value, because they share the task of leading mankind toward a brighter morrow.

(applause)

THE PRESIDENT: Now we are going to sit down and proceed with the regular conference. (then to Mr. Early) What's this? Is this to be given out? (a memorandum in front of him)

MR. EARLY: That was phoned to us by Donald Nelson a few moments ago. He wants you to mention it.

THE PRESIDENT: Donald Nelson wants me to mention the following -- it came over the telephone a few minutes ago, so I haven't read it first. I assume it's all right.

(reading): We are engaged in an intensive drive to collect all of the scrap possible. We need steel scrap badly to increase present production. We are keeping ahead of the blast furnaces now, but we want to accumulate 17 million tons of scrap to insure steel production for the year 1943. We want to take all abandoned steel structures, abandoned railroads, plants and buildings, old farm machinery of no further value, and any miscellaneous steel or copper -- or rubber, of course -- scrap that's lying around the home. This is merely another effort to get in a lot of scrap of various kinds that we feel certain is still lying around the country in different places.

I think that's all I have got.

(then turning to Mr. Early) There isn't any more -- there is

nothing more on the (rubber survey) committee that was appointed yesterday?

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: They're at work. That's all I can tell you.

Q Mr. President, have you completed your review of the case of the 8 German agents?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. Haven't finished reading it.

Q Do you expect to do so today, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you. I don't know.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, with respect to Mr. Nelson's memorandum to you, there comes to newspapers and radio people from all over the country the suggestion that possibly you could organize to pick up the cannon, and things of that sort, that are lying around on courthouse squares throughout the country, plus some of the statues of bronze that people -- (laughter interrupting) ---

THE PRESIDENT: I think there are many ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Would you care to say anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Taking the last point first, there are a great many statues around the country which would probably look better if they were turned into guns. (laughter) They could perhaps be replaced after the war with something -- what shall I say? -- a little more artistic. (more laughter)

Q Do you have any in mind, sir? (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I think we have Frederick the Great down here who started all this stuff.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in the -- what's the other one, Earl, that you ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) What was that?

THE PRESIDENT: The other kind?

MR. GODWIN: The other kind was this American Legion ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, Yes. The World War cannon, and some of the Civil War cannon. We have already gone through Navy Yards, and are still going through Navy Yards to use many of those old historic cannon.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It probably is the best use they can be put to, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Yes. Well, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and I think it should be done.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- you endorse that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I am inclined to think that it wouldn't be a bad idea to get some kind of approval or authorization by Congress which would tell communities that have these cannon out on the village green that after the war is all over we will replace them with something more modern -- (laughter) -- that has a modern history in the winning of the war.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, there are a lot of elegant brass door knobs and mail boxes in this town.

THE PRESIDENT: Would you like the chairmanship of that committee? (laughter)

Q Mr. President, you conferred yesterday with Donald Nelson, (Joseph B.) Eastman, and Leon Henderson. Is there anything you could say about that conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. It was merely a conference of progress, looking toward the necessities of rubber and scrap, and so forth.

Q Mr. President, charges have been made in the New York primary campaign that (Senator) Jim Mead is an Isolationist. Do you think so?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not talking politics. I am not engaging in the New York campaign, but whoever made any charge of that kind, I should say offhand that -- well, if Jim Mead is an Isolationist, so am I.

Q Are you going to vote in the primary, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Are you expecting to vote in the primary, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am not going up for the primaries, because we have essentially no contest for -- in the Democratic primaries in the District. In other words, I am not permitted to go into the Republican primaries. (laughter)

Q Would you like to, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I would. (loud laughter)

(pause)

Q Mr. President, what is the significance of the subordination of the Fair Employment Practices Committee to the War Manpower Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I just got a memorandum on that last night, and I have got to look into it. I don't know which -- whether they are equal or whether one has been subordinated to the other. I doubt very much if there has been any subordinating of the Fair (Employment) Practices to the other.

(pause)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook IX-PC -- page 145 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #841
Executive Office of the President
August 11, 1942 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) says I have nothing.

Q Mr. President, about a month ago a conference on the West Coast to stabilize wages in aircraft plants blew up because of disagreement between various emergency agencies. It was supposed to reconvene in Washington this month. There has been no date set because of the indecision about the Administration's wage policy on wage increases. Can you give us any light as to when we might get some statement on policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't -- I haven't heard that story at all. A brand new one. I would have to go into it.

Q Thank you, sir.

Q Mr. President, in view of the obvious necessity for greater war production in your statement Sunday, and so forth, what would you think of a union steward who deliberately told men in a war plant to produce less than a fair day's work? Would you make any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that an "if" question?

Q No, it isn't an "if" question. We have some evidence on it, in Detroit.

THE PRESIDENT: Who was it?

Q Well, there was a plant in Muskegon, one in Flint. If you would like more, I would be glad to give them to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Go and dig up the stuff for me. I will dig into it.

Q Yes, sir.

Q On that line, sir, there are various wildcat strikes appearing almost daily, which are -- don't have the approval of the national officers

of the various unions. Would you care to say anything about them -- about these unauthorized strikes?

THE PRESIDENT: Where?

Q Well, sir, there was one yesterday in a steel mill in Pittsburgh, and I think if you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You know the name of it?

Q I think it was a unit of Carnegie Illinois.

THE PRESIDENT: (turning to Mr. Early) Will you make a note of it, Steve? We will look it up for you.

Q Would you like to have a complete catalog? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q I can read them off.

THE PRESIDENT: Go and do your homework first.

Q Seriously, sir, the -- there are a large number of these wildcat strikes which Mr. (Philip) Murray (C.I.O.) and Mr. (Wm.) Green (A.F.L.) disapprove of. Have they come to your attention?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't -- I can't answer a perfectly general question of that kind. I have heard of a few. It depends a good deal on what kind of a story you read. About -- Oh, what was it? -- six months ago I think, I had cause one day to say that as an ordinary citizen who read certain types of papers, that I would say that about 75% of all munitions plants were out on strike, and that that didn't happen to be true; and therefore it was what I would call sloppy writing, or wrong kind of orders from the owner of the paper, one or the other; and that actually at that time, as I remember it, the actual figures were one and a half percent, or it may have been half of one percent. But if you read the paper, it sounded like 75. Now I think we will

have to be a little bit more factual first.

Q Mr. President, have you seen a statement put out by the War Labor Board, intimating that the laws of treason might have to be resorted to in the situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. When did that come out?

Q Two weeks ago, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Will you get it for me?

Q Glad to.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine.

Q Mr. President, the French Ambassador was here today. Could you give any comment on his visit?

THE PRESIDENT: He didn't come here.

Q He didn't?

THE PRESIDENT: Did he go to see Mac (M. H. McIntyre)?

Q He went ---

Q (interposing) State Department -- Secretary of State.

Q (interposing) State Department.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh.

Q Will there be any successor to Admiral Leahy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, honestly. I don't think any decision has been made.

Q Does it depend on certain factors ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I guess so.

Q (continuing) --- which are not yet crystallized?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Martinique, for example?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Martinique?

THE PRESIDENT: Now -- now wait a minute. Don't ask what kind of circumstances. Just call it a circumstance.

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's a case where on my part I can't get down to brass tacks.

Q Mr. President, the story that one thousand plants might have to curtail their production seems to have been pretty well authenticated. Have you anything to say on that -- because of the lack of basic materials ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know. I would have to ask the Army and the Navy and Donald Nelson before I could authenticate it.

Q Mr. President, a few weeks ago you had no comment on the Indian situation. Do you have any today?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q (aside) How about this?

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q (aside) (jokingly) What for?

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #842
Executive Office of the President
August 21, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Q Good morning.

Q Good morning, sir.

Q (aside) Some work. (indicating mimeographed releases in front of the President)

VOICE IN THE BACKGROUND: Hurry along. Hurry along.

Q Okay.

(pause as newspapermen continue to file in)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you the most important thing first, which is a warning to the enemy nations. I am making it in the form of a statement, because I think probably that is as good a way as any.

(reading): "The Secretary of State --"

-- Steve will give you a copy of this afterwards, so you needn't take it down ---

(continuing reading): "The Secretary of State recently forwarded to me a communication signed by the Ambassador of The Netherlands, and the Ministers of Yugoslavia and Luxembourg, on behalf of the governments of Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the French National Committee in London, calling attention to the barbaric crimes against civilization -- civilian populations that are being committed in Occupied countries, particularly on the Continent of Europe."

Of course, we had hoped that the -- this is not in the statement --

we had hoped that the barbaric acts against civilian populations would decrease. On the contrary, they seem to be increasing. And I just give you the example of the -- the shooting of hostages, not only in France but very recently five or six very important citizens in -- in The Netherlands, and a good many people in Norway. Well, it's just an illustration. We don't get much news out of the other countries, but it is probable that similar -- I call them atrocities on the part of Germany still exist in those other countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia that we don't get much news out of.

(continuing reading): "In this communication, attention was invited to the declaration signed in London, January 13 this year, by the representatives of nine governments whose countries are under German occupation. This declaration affirmed that acts of violence thus perpetrated against the civilian populations are at variance with accepted ideas concerning acts of war and political offenses, as these are understood by civilized nations; stated that the punishment, through the channels of organized justice of those guilty and responsible for these crimes, is one of the principal war aims of the contracting governments; and recorded the determination of the contracting governments, in a spirit of international solidarity, to see to it that those guilty and responsible, whatever their nationality, are handed over to justice and tried, and that the sentences pronounced are carried out.

"The communication which I have just received from the chiefs of mission of The Netherlands, Yugoslavia, and Luxembourg, states that these acts of oppression and terror have taken proportions and forms, giving rise to the fear that as the defeat of the enemy countries ap-

proaches, the barbaric and unrelenting character of the occupational regime will become more marked, and may even lead to the extermination of certain populations.

"As I stated on October 25 last:

"'The practice of executing scores of innocent hostages in reprisal for isolated attacks on Germans in countries temporarily under the Nazi heel revolts a world already inured to suffering and brutality. Civilized peoples long ago adopted the basic principle that no man should be punished for the deed of another. Unable to apprehend the persons involved in these attacks, the Nazis characteristically slaughter fifty or a hundred innocent persons. Those who would 'collaborate' with Hitler or try to appease him cannot ignore this ghastly warning.

"'The Nazis might have learned from the last war the impossibility of breaking men's spirit by terrorism. Instead they develop their 'lebensraum' and 'new order' by deeds of frightfulness which even they have never approached before. These are the acts of desperate men who know in their hearts that they cannot win. Frightfulness can never bring peace to Europe. It only sows the seeds of hatred which will one day bring fearful retribution.'"

And this is new --

(continuing reading): "The Government of the United States has been aware for some time of these crimes. Our Government has constantly received additional information from dependable sources, and it welcomes reports from any trustworthy source which would assist in keeping our Government -- our growing fund of information and evidence up to date and reliable."

In other words, we want news -- from any source that is reliable -- of the continuation of atrocities.

(continuing reading): "The United Nations are going to win the war. When victory has been achieved, it is the purpose of the Government of the United States, as I know it is the purpose of each of the United Nations, to make appropriate use of the information and evidence in respect to these barbaric crimes of the invaders, in Europe and in Asia. It seems only fair that they should have this warning: that the time will come when they shall have to stand in courts of law, in the very countries which they are now oppressing, and answer for their acts."

Well, I think that's clear enough. I don't think it needs much comment.

Then I -- Steve has got for you a copy of a letter that went out yesterday morning to the head of every department and agency of the Federal government in regard to talking too much. (laughter)

I won't read it. It's fairly long. You can get it from Steve. But the object is to prevent the people, from the top to the bottom in these different agencies, and so forth, from talking too much, thereby creating false impressions, and in many cases taking opposite sides of a policy argument out in public which hasn't been passed on in any way, trying to make you good people decide that this is going to be the policy of the Government, and then citing somebody who has talked too much, and -- Oh, well, you can understand why it's done just as well as I can.

The third thing I have is that Mr. (Wendell) Willkie -- you have -- he told you about it yesterday -- is going out to the Near East, and -- and Russia.

Well, the Near East -- I think you can make a fairly good guess -- includes Egypt, and Arabia, and Palestine, and Syria, and Turkey, and Iraq, and Iran, and in addition to that -- Moscow.

And he is going as -- Oh, I don't know -- I don't know exactly what -- what his title would be. At any rate he is going for me. He is going -- I suppose the best thing to call him is a Special Representative of the President. He will carry letters to the various Americans, and so forth, out there, and to some of the other people too.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) May I revert ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And he will be back by the 15th of October.

(laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I wanted to ask you whether you would -- you could commit, in this very judicially-minded statement of yours about the retribution, if you could commit those folks over there in these ravished countries to acting through courts of law, when they got a chance at them? You -- you are speaking for the -- for the Government of the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: You are not committing those people to stand up there, are you? In other words, I don't see how those fellows could stand going in a law court if they got a hold of these guys.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, I can't talk for them, but I express the hope that there will be a judicial process.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q Mr. President, have you heard the remark of some of the representatives of the Occupied countries: "Give us one week"? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have. And I hope that they won't carry that idea out. I think sober judgment would be distinctly -- all over the world -- in

favor of the judicial processes, when we win the war and can give it back. We don't want to kill innocent people.

MR. GODWIN: Then the form of it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. GODWIN: I don't mean effecting another form, but may I ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) We had a very good example of it here ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- two or three weeks ago. That was not just a form. That was a definite judicial process that was carried up to the highest court.

MR. GODWIN: Well, do you care -- you mentioned Iraq and Iran and a lot of those Near East countries ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Is there anything you could say about what you desire him to do there? Information? Or is there anything more than that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you could -- I think you could say this: that, of course, in each country there are special tasks, depending on the country. I am not talking about Russia. I am talking about the other countries in the Near East.

I should say that his principal task would be to tell the truth to them, representing the titular leadership, or leadership of the minority party in this country. What he says will carry a very great weight on what the United States is doing to win the war. In other words, that we -- we have unity, and that we are going all-out.

And we talked for a while about one phase of it, which is perhaps an unintentional result, but a great many people all over the world get

from our dispatches that originate in the United States the idea that our production is being hurt to a very, very large extent -- remember I talked about this last week -- there will be a threatened strike in one small plant, and it lasts 24 hours -- there will be another shutdown by management in some small individual plant for 24 hours. That is so handled by the news agencies as to make the outside countries think that that is the rule instead of the very rare exception.

I have had British labor people come in here, saying, "Oh, it's terrible. It's perfectly terrible. Why all these strikes, all these shutdowns?" And so forth and so on. "You are not carrying out the program." And when I tell them what this country knows pretty well, that the total of delay in war production caused by strikes or shutdowns is an infinitesimal percentage of the total, they are very much surprised. Now it isn't a great -- a lot of people in Britain think that, because of a -- what shall I call it politely? -- a disproportionate exposition of the news.

It is also true, probably, in the -- in the Middle East -- Near East. And of course our enemies seize it -- they grab it. Probably some of you know -- have access to German newspaper dispatches, or dispatches from newspapers from, say, Paris. Why, Heavens above! -- if ten men walk out, that's front-page stuff for them. And the enemy, that is part of his propaganda, perfectly obviously. They just magnify something that doesn't exist. Well, the result is that you get false information to the people all over Europe and the Near East.

Well, that is -- that is one of Mr. Willkie's tasks, to tell the truth about the United States.

And another matter that I asked him to -- to mention when he gets

to these different places is the comparison between an Axis victory and a United Nations victory, as to what would happen to them.

Now you might say that one side or the other is going to win, and therefore those nations which are not actively at war at the present time ought to begin to think about what is going to happen to them in the case of either victory, in the one case being reduced to the status of a puppet state, totally controlled by Germany and Italy, and in the other case a -- a reasonable opportunity for autonomy, and independence, and development, under certain principles. Well, just for example, the principles of The Atlantic Charter.

And they ought to realize -- begin to realize over there the implications of a victory by the Axis powers, versus the implications by the United Nations. I don't think that we have expressed that enough to the individual governments and peoples of those -- of those nations. Now that is one of the jobs for Mr. Willkie to do.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, have you asked Mr. Willkie to report to you when he comes back?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes.

Q Mr. President, you said that he would carry communications to some of the leaders of the governments that he would visit. Could we presume that they would include one to Mr. Stalin?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh, Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In fact, Mr. Stalin knows he is coming.

MR. GODWIN: In your illustration there -- the dissemination of news -- you brought up the strike. Would you care also to include -- and it isn't

mine at all -- the fact that the statement is made that production is falling off by competent authorities, labor leaders ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Right.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- who blame the dollar-a-year men, and some Member of Congress who will make the statement on the Floor. It is not always -- it arises as a legitimate matter of news sometimes, so far as reporting is concerned.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. If you go -- it depends, of course, a good deal on what paper you work for. Of course, you can always write a story any way you want it. And of course, the principal problem at the present time is getting the raw materials to these plants, where you have -- it isn't an easy thing -- you have got literally thousands and thousands of plants. And with the best intentions in the world, the W.P.B. and the Army and Navy make priorities. Well, sometimes those priorities that are made at the beginning of the contract don't work out the way we expect them to. And we also know, in addition to that, that the very use of the word "priorities"means "not enough material to go around." And those are the principal causes of slowing up at the present time.

MR. GODWIN: Well, as a general over-all matter, are you satisfied with the progress of the manufacture of munitions, and the distribution of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I never will be.

MR. GODWIN: Dissatisfied?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Are you blue about it? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. No.

I think those are the only things I have.

Q Mr. President, on the same subject, we -- United Press -- get letters and cables from places like Buenos Aires, complaining that we don't have enough in our naval victories and other military victories, that we don't exploit them sufficiently to help our friends who are really in favor of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: I wonder where those originate? It certainly -- certainly the civilian impression of that from down there wouldn't amount -- wouldn't be worth printing. I always -- I always wonder where they originate. Now an Army or Navy officer -- it probably is not worth printing, because they haven't got all the facts that we have. It's all very lovely.

Of course, we always have to remember another thing, that is that every nation in the world on our side, or the neutral side, would like to have all of the munitions that we turn out. Therefore, we have to have priorities, again, on the distribution of munitions.

Same way on the follow up. I suppose I am as close to the question of follow up as anybody. It's a world war. Don't always have enough -- enough of the implements of war to follow up in every area. I would like to have a million men in Australia at the present time -- Americans, plus all the Australians. Can't get them there.

Q Mr. President, have you discussed your anti-inflation program with Judge (Samuel I.) Rosenman?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been talking it over with, I suppose, about 40 or 50 different people, and I think that he probably could be listed among the 40 or 50 different people.

Q (interposing) Can you tell us ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So you could just -- you could just say Judge

Rosenman. He is one of the 40 or 50.

Q I meant, sir, that he was a fact-gatherer?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I get a lot of facts from other places too. I wouldn't call him that.

Q Could you tell us what progress you are making, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty good. I would say -- well, this is not a promise, it's a hope, that within a week or two we will have something on it.

Q Thank you.

Q Could you confirm the published stories, sir, that one of the plans under consideration would create an economic stabilization authority of about seven men?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, I couldn't.

Q (interjecting) Is that talking too much?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It might be wrong.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, still on the home front, if I may, can you tell me the effect yesterday afternoon in New York will have on the conduct of the war? (referring to the nomination of Jim Farley's John J. Bennett, Jr., over the President's James M. Mead, for Democratic nominee for Governor of New York State)

THE PRESIDENT: I thought somebody probably would ask that, -- (laughter) -- and so this morning, while at breakfast, I was reading a piece by Mark Sullivan, which has a lot of wisdom in it. (picking up the New York Herald Tribune for August 21) I shall -- I shall read this. He is talking about a press conference that Bob Patterson had on the -- the commando raid.

(reading): "The newsmen asked if Mr. Patterson had any comment.

The question was asked in a manner which suggested that the questioner really didn't have much hope of an answer." -- (laughter) -- which I think is very nice.

Then Mark goes on. He says this:

"By thus setting his expectations below his hopes, he escaped disappointment." (more laughter)

This is one of the grandest things I ever read.

(continuing reading): "Mr. Patterson said merely that he had no worth-while comment. If Mr. Patterson has no copyright on those four short words, 'no worth-while comment,' they could be advantageously used by some other Washington officials who face press conferences. If all officials were as immune as the impassive Mr. Patterson from feeling that courtesy or other motive requires them to satisfy the newsmen with something interesting or amusing -- in that event the quantity of words that go out of Washington would become at once diminished -- (laughter) -- and more informative." (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. Sullivan ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I wanted to read that because I want that to go into the record of the Press Conferences that will come out some day.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. Sullivan is with us today, if you care ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes? Is Mark there?

MR. SULLIVAN: Always here, Mr. President. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now it's going down in the Presidential papers to be issued later on.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about it?

Q Mr. President, ---

VOICES: (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

(Notebook IX-PC -- page 158 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #843
Executive Office of the President
August 25, 1942 -- 4.30 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Sounds as if we are having trouble getting them in. (upon hearing voices in the background, "Hurry along, please. Move along, please.")

Q Big house.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only news I have is that the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Peter Fraser) gets here tomorrow afternoon, and there will be a little dinner for him at the White House tomorrow night. And I imagine he will be here -- Oh, what? -- a week or ten days, looking over things. He comes at my invitation, which I sent about a month ago. And I hope also that sometime later in the year we will receive visits from the Prime Minister of Australia (John Curtin), and the Prime Minister of South Africa (Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts). No dates are yet set.

Q Have you invited them, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any special significance in the invitation of the Australian Prime Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I invited them all -- over a month ago.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, can you tell us what Archbishop ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- (Edward) Mooney (with Monsignor Michael J. Ready) was here so long about?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked about a flock of things.

Q Any Detroit problems involved?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q Can you tell us what some of those were?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think the only thing I could say on the particular Detroit problem must be said off the record -- completely off the record. And that is this, that they have, of course, a problem like a great many other places: a very large influx of population, and the problem of housing. And one portion of the problem -- not the whole of it, a portion of it probably -- a great many new workers -- is the colored problem; and the effort to -- on the part of a great many people -- to create trouble.

Well, of course, in all human probability this influx of population in Detroit is not a permanent thing, any more than it was at the time of the last war, or as it was at the time of the boom of nineteen hundred and twenty-nine. And after that -- both those cases -- the population that had come in, a very large portion of it, went back home.

And -- well, about the only thing you can say on it is a word of advice to treat this as a temporary problem -- do the best we can. We are all living together in turning out munitions -- and especially to avoid creating trouble.

That's about all there is.

MR. EARLY: Is all of that off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's all off the record.

Q Mr. President, will you support (Attorney General John J.) Bennett (Jr.) for the New York governorship?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Will you support Bennett for the New York governorship?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think that I haven't had any release from Mark Sullivan on what he told me the other day. I can't talk without a release from Mark. And Mark hasn't thought it over and talked it over with me yet. So we are not ready to move. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you been informed about the meeting of the A.F.L. and C.I.O. with the Labor Division of the W.P.B. (War Production Board)?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I think I am seeing Mr. (Wm.) Green (A.F.L.) and Mr. (Philip) Murray (C.I.O.) tomorrow. I haven't heard anything.

Q Mr. President, does that meeting with Mr. Green and Mr. Murray have a bearing on the so-called -- the new plan against spiraling the cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh, Yes.

Q Have you now progressed to the point where you can show to these leaders a specific program?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am still at the talking stage, that's all. You might just as well make up your mind whatever goes on in the meeting will not be final or definitive.

Q There have been reports, sir, that you might go on the radio with a Labor Day address. Is there any basis for that report?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Maybe. I don't know whether it will be Labor Day, or before Labor Day, or after Labor Day. (laughter)

Q What does that depend upon, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q What does that depend upon, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose it depends on my making up my mind. (laughter)

Q Well, Mr. President, will your speech, sir, deal with your new anti-high-cost-of-living program? Is that the thought?

THE PRESIDENT: Part of it probably would, ---

Q (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Yes. But I wouldn't say that speech will, because that will only be part ---

Q (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- of the speech. It probably will take in a lot of other things too.

Q (interposing) Including the progress ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Of course, the problem of the "cost of living" -- which as you know I prefer as a term to the word "inflation" -- it's a very, very serious matter before the country, affecting people's lives and -- and affecting very definitely the actual active conduct of the war. Therefore, it will probably be one of the subjects.

Q Mr. President, in -- in addition to the labor angle of that, Mr. (Claude) Wickard (Secretary of Agriculture) the other day, I am sure you noticed, made a statement in favor of the repeal of the 110% ceiling on farm prices, in favor of certain ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, all right. I will tell you what I will do. I will give you a sort of a -- sort of an idea for a story.

Q Swell. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: In this -- in this problem, remember there are quite a number of points to be taken up, savings, buying bonds, and so forth and so on; and the -- the -- an effort, this is largely on the financial end, to prevent people from bidding against each other to get all kinds of things, which they have got to do without -- simply have to. It will upset the whole war effort if they don't make certain sacrifices in the things they buy.

However, that part of it is rather distinct from two of the points which I made in that last talk, two points on which I have a sort of a feeling that the country is being a bit whipsawed between two so-called groups. They are not. They are all American citizens. They are really all one group. But as part of the Democratic process, people are apt to simplify it down overly and call them two separate groups. Well, they are not. And yet they try to make it appear so. They very often appear as if they were two different groups.

One is Labor and the other is Agriculture.

Now, after a good many months of effort it looks as if it wouldn't be fair to impose certain restrictions on one group without imposing restrictions on the other group. And I think from the point of view of national defense, and the conduct of the war, we have got to do both, one way or another. And these conferences today relate to the methods of imposing certain sacrifices on everybody, including both of these so-called groups.

Now one of the first things to point out -- reiterate what I said about their really being one group -- take, for example, the agricultural family. You can't over-simplify it and say that the agricultural family lives off the farm, because it doesn't. Now that's just a plain fact that I think has been greatly overlooked. The agricultural family buys an awful lot in the store. The agricultural family, most of them, buy a lot, for example, of canned goods, and clothing of various kinds, and household needs of various kinds. So of course they are very deeply affected if the price of those needs goes skyrocketing. And it will hurt them, perhaps not altogether as much as the city family, but pretty close to the city family, if consumers goods in the store go up in price.

And I think that if the farmer's wife all the way through the country were -- had it explained to her -- about the cost of living to her, I think the farmer's wife would appreciate it, and understand it, and go along with the effort to stabilize the cost of living.

But you can't stabilize wages without stabilizing farm prices. Nor can you stabilize farm prices without stabilizing the cost of wages. And that's the thing that we are working on, to bring about a result of a stabilized cost of living, in so far as it is possible to do it.

Now there is no use talking about individual instances, and examples, and methods, because we haven't -- we haven't -- nobody in this country has got the thing absolutely clearly in mind yet. We are making definite progress toward it, and we have made very great progress since last spring in keeping the cost of living -- what will I say? -- not keeping it down, but in very greatly reducing the speed of the increase. So that in the last -- I have forgotten, what? -- I told you a few weeks ago -- in the course of the last -- what? -- five or six months, the actual cost of living has only gone up a fraction of one percent. But you can't do that permanently. And if you can start it going up by increasing price ceilings in a store, for example, then you are on dangerous ground, and the whole spiral may gather speed again. But we are trying to stop it.

Q Mr. (Leon) Henderson said it might be that food prices might go up 30%, if they do it at the rate of 2½% a month.

THE PRESIDENT: Perfectly possible.

Q Do you think your plan will minimize that 30%?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's the whole point. That's the objective: Reduce it down as far as possible to an absolute level. That's the objective.

You can't always reach it ---

Q (interjecting) The ideal?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in every article.

Q Mr. President, to revert to the visit of the Dominions' Prime Ministers, is there anything you can tell us -- any specific purpose of their visit?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, just talk about the progress of the war. There is nothing specific. We haven't got one specific item.

Q Mr. President, in this attack on the problem of the acceleration of the cost of living, do you still think, or do you think that this might require legislation for the new attack which is shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not sure that we would have time for it.

Q In the specific question of stabilizing farm prices, you would need legislation on that specific ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not necessarily. In other words, time is -- is -- is a very important element in this. The whole situation might get out of hand in 30 days.

Q Well, then, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) It's automatic now, isn't it though, sir? How can Mr. (Leon) Henderson, for example, act to hold it down if he hasn't authority to do it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's something that is being studied at the present time. That's one of the -- you might call it almost a -- a method instead of an objective.

Q Mr. President, will the announcement be made on the wage stabilization and the farm price stabilization at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: I should think so. I think it's a fair thing to do.

Q Mr. President, could you explain a little more what you mean by wage stabilization -- clarify it as to whether it does mean the holding of its present level, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Essentially. After all -- after all, let's talk about it in a -- in a common sense way. Suppose the cost of food was to go up 30%. Do you think we should keep the national wage scale down to where it is now? I don't. But, on the other hand, you keep the cost of food down to where it is now, why should Labor get an advantage? We are all in the same boat, and we are going to make some pretty tough sacrifices -- on the part of everybody -- before we get through.

Q Would the method of approach be somewhat similar to the War Labor Board's approach to the Little Steel formula?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Now you are coming down to details.

Q How soon, sir, might we anticipate something concrete -- definite on this?

THE PRESIDENT: As I said before, Labor Day, or before Labor Day, or after Labor Day. I can't be any more specific.

Q Around Labor Day, Mr. President? (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. If I can get enough time to write it.

Q (interjecting) Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's largely a question of enough time.

Q Has the Justice Department, sir, worked on your powers to act without legislation, or have you asked for such an investigation?

THE PRESIDENT: They are studying it too.

Q Mr. President, is there any probability that this speech of yours that you are contemplating would be the occasion of announcing this stabilization -- completed plan of yours?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it probably would be a good idea. (laughter) Of

course I think also, probably, if I did that, I would probably notify the Congress at the same time -- send a Message up.

Q About this angle of economic authority that was -- has been spoken of in two or three reports. Is that under consideration?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I wouldn't put it that way, but there has been -- of course, necessarily, machinery is under consideration.. I wouldn't call it "economic authority."

Q (aside) Let's go.

Q Mr. President, getting back to the New York governorship -- (laughter) ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Getting back to the New York governorship, has any wire of congratulations been sent to (Jim) Farley or (John J.) Bennett, (Jr.)?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't think anybody has had time to.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #844
Executive Office of the President
August 28, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

Q Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Q Don't emphasize that "good." (Mr. Early's birthday party was yesterday)

Q With reservations.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Nice. Just grand. (the weather was perfect today)

How is John Henry getting on?

Q Better.

Q Better.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q Lauch(lin) Currie can tell you more about him than we can.

Q He was quite sick.

Q He was sick for a while.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q He was sick for a while.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sure. One of those damn bugs.

Q 16 pounds off.

THE PRESIDENT: What? 16 pounds off? Oh! I think that's one of those places down there in Africa where there are 11 types of malaria, each one a different mosquito -- different type. You know, two Greek aides who came here, spent one night in -- way down in one of those places, and they came in with a temperature of 104. We got them to the Naval Hospital in Brooklyn. They stayed there about three weeks -- four weeks. They had been bitten by a mosquito in one night, and they each had a different type. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got two or three things, none of them of major importance.

I signed a Proclamation, giving the right of eminent domain to acquire the necessary lands, and so forth, for a pipeline to be built by a thing called Project Five Pipeline Corporation, for national defense purposes, about 150 miles, originating in the vicinity of Eldorado, Arkansas, and extending approximately 150 miles in a northeasterly direction to the Mississippi, in the vicinity of Helena, Arkansas.

Well, I thought I would say something off the record, or you can use it for background.

I am a little bit worried this morning, and yesterday and the day before, lest the press of the country lead the country to believe that we have had a great, smashing, major victory in the Southwest Pacific. Well, for instance, one of the papers this morning (The Washington Post) says, "Japanese Offensive Smashed." Well, I wouldn't call it an offensive. There have only been two things really that have happened since we occupied Tulagi and Guadalcanal (Islands in the Solomons). The first was a combination of the landing of 700 Japs on Guadalcanal, which was wiped out, and a series of -- of small attacks by Japanese planes. As you know, in that we have done pretty well, knocking down about -- I don't know, what? -- 30 or 32 of them, at a cost to us of about 4 planes. But those were all minor operations.

The second thing that has happened since the occupation of the Islands has been -- might be called a series -- I should call it not a full scale offensive on the part of the Japs but a reconnaissance in force. And we think that that reconnaissance has withdrawn. We have hit some ships. Perhaps -- we hope we have sunk a few of them, but I don't think

that the press should give the idea -- the idea to the country that we have won a great major victory, that it was a major offensive in any way. And I hate to have people over-estimate what essentially are minor victories. That's the best -- the best expression is that it was a reconnaissance in force. I think you could use those words. And, well, that's about all there is to it.

MR. EARLY: Mr. President, the last time that you used the background category---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. EARLY: The last time ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't want it attributed to me.

MR. EARLY: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: That's the point. I don't want it attributed to me. It's just for your office information really.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you have seen Navy communiques, of course?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: They are cagily written, and necessarily so. Many people -- many men on newspapers of course don't have the benefit of an explanation like yours ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- like you are giving now, and frequently the Navy or Associated Press would tip fellows off to the fact that they could be optimistic or pessimistic.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I think that's true.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) They are -- they arise out of that very fact, that the Navy communiques cannot give exactly ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think that's true, Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- that implication.

THE PRESIDENT: Then the other thing is sort of a -- I thought I would tell you about something that hasn't got anything to do with the war, because after all even in war-time you have to think about some of the nicer things of life.

When Professor (Carleton J.) Hayes went to Madrid as our new Ambassador there, just when he left, I said to him, "Will you, after you get settled down, let me have some information that I don't know anything about -- very few people do in this country, or in the Americas. After all, Spanish culture of all kinds is the main background for a very large percentage of the population of the Western Hemisphere, and we have heard very little about how much destruction there was of things like great paintings, and books, and manuscripts, and other precious objects of art -- furniture, and even buildings -- how much destruction was caused by the civil war in Spain. And I would like to know something about it."

I said, furthermore, "In the back of my head I have got the idea that one way of helping Spain to get on her feet after these very great trials, after the war is over, is to encourage tourists from all of the Americas to go to Spain, to help them improve their facilities for handling tourists. Spain never specialized in tourists, and yet a great many people from the Western Hemisphere, searching for this background of culture, have gone there under rather difficult conditions. And why wouldn't it be possible, after the war period, to help Spain get on her feet by having a great many tourists from the Americas go there?"

Well, it was just one of those shots in the dark. And I got a letter from him a few days ago, in which he said on the first point that considering the severity of the civil war, it's amazing how much [little?] in the

HFB 3-5-43

way of historic paintings, and manuscripts, and so forth, were actually destroyed. They were pretty well taken care of. They were hidden away.

But in the -- in the preservation, the saving of them, a great deal of work ought to be done to -- I won't say restore them, but repair any damage, clean and varnish the paintings, fix up the frames, repair the books and the manuscripts, and even rebuild certain damages to buildings which are -- buildings not wrecked, but perhaps some of the columns, and so forth, were destroyed.

And he said that it ought to be done pretty soon, before the damage gets so far that it won't be easy to repair. And also, that he thought that the Spanish people, and the Spanish government, would be very much interested in having more visitors from all over the world -- after the war -- go and see them.

So I talked with Nelson Rockefeller the other day, just before he left for South America, and told him about it. And after all, this is not -- not a United States proposition. It relates to all of the Republics of -- out of the 21 Republics, 18 have as their fundamental background the ancient Spanish civilization. Portugal, of course, has a Brazilian civilization and background. Brazil -- (laughter) -- has a ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Vice versa.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Portugese background. And Haiti has, of course, a French.

So Rockefeller down there, on his trip around South America, is going to talk to various people on this subject, and see whether all of the Republics could get together and help Spain out in the care of their paintings, and architecture, and manuscripts, and so forth. And after the war, in the same way get together and help Spain to -- to make facili-

ties for tourists more -- more easy. Spanish transportation, for example -- railroads -- have been pretty -- pretty difficult for -- for tourists. Trains didn't run on time, and they ran very slowly. Roads were not always good. And a great deal can be done along those lines.

Well, of course, it would be a voluntary matter. It would be a matter of gift, in the sense that we have done in the Americas a great many things like that in the past, in improving facilities in -- in countries which because of war or stress or something else did not have the money to do it themselves.

Now of course this is all predicated on the assumption that Spain remains neutral in this war -- (laughter) -- which I hope that Spain will do. However, it's worth explaining. And I think it's a little touch in the middle of war that is rather a nice thing to contemplate.

Q This wouldn't be calculated to keep Spain neutral? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. It has nothing to do with that. That would be an unfair thing, because to put it in that way would impugn the motive, which is a decent motive.

Q Mr. President, do you think there will be many people who will object to helping the Franco government in any way at all?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. After all, a very ancient culture transcends any government of any particular period. It survives through all kinds of changes of government.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, when you speak of gifts, do you mean seeking individual gifts, or a gift by governments?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It will depend upon what each Republic wants to do. And I think in this country, possibly, some of the Foundations might help,

through individual gifts.

Q Wouldn't be an appropriation by government?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. No. No, no. This is -- this is under the good auspices of the 21 governments, that's all.

Q Mr. President, have you given it a personal touch? Were you in Spain at any time ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- when you were in France?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Did you ever go to Spain at any time?

THE PRESIDENT: I have only been a hundred feet into Spain in my life, up in the Pyrenees, ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- a good many years ago.

Q Mr. President, as long ago as when Mr. (Claude) Bowers was over there, he was working to make this more attractive ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- to American countries.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

Q (continuing) I remember one of the recommendations he made was that they should cut down on the use of olive oil by three-quarters, and garlic by nine-tenths. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There are some Americans who like it. (more laughter) I don't think I have got another thing.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, have you had a report yet from the Department of Justice on your war powers?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, Pete.

Q Mr. President, can you say anything about your talks the other night with the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Peter Fraser)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, it was a renewal of an old friendship. And we talked about literally everything.

There was one -- there was one thing along that line which -- I only think of it because Australia and New Zealand produce a great deal of meat, and because there have been various stories of the fact that a meatless day in this country was being considered.

I think it probably amazed most people in this country, as they knew that it was not a question of Australian meat, or New Zealand meat, or American meat that has to be shipped to people who haven't got any meat. It's a question of shipping, of saving ships.

And I haven't got any final figures yet, so make it clear that the figures are not final, but it looks a little as if a meatless day in this country would enable us to save the use of 30 or 40 ships, which is a very amazing statement. In other words, a great deal of our meat could go to places where they have to have it on the other side. And of course that would save, in the sense that that would not use as many ships to bring meat from Australia, and New Zealand, and the Argentine. It is a matter of ship mileage.

Now nothing has been decided on it yet. We are working on it solely from the angle of trying to save ships. Well, My Lord! -- if we can save 30 or 40 ships, that's an awful big help to a very serious problem.

MR. GODWIN: Is that one meat day?

THE PRESIDENT: One meat day, not counting Friday. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: One other?

THE PRESIDENT: One other.

Q Would that be 30 or 40 ships a week, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: That would save the use of 30 or 40 ships.

Q Over a year's time, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: At all times.

MR. GODWIN: At the moment?

THE PRESIDENT: At all times. In other words, we are taking 30 or 40 ships out of a given trade of the moment, and using them for something else.

Q That's over a year's basis?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a year. At all times. See what I mean? Say there are a hundred ships that are carrying -- that are carrying meat today. Well actually, of course, we could take 30 or 40 of them under the present figures and turn them into carrying guns, airplanes, tanks. That is, again, at all times, not over a given period, but at all times -- this month, next month, next January, next summer. It's a net gain of so many tons of ships.

Q That is, Mr. President, provided the meatless day extends through the period?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q When would it be likely that this meatless day might be started?

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't got to that yet. We are still studying how much saving there will be made of shipping.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, to return to the anti-inflation problem, can you tell us what question you posed to the Justice Department?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Too many of them. Take me an hour.

Q Well, specifically can I ask, sir, whether one question is your power as Commander in Chief in time of war to make certain price restrictions ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I suppose -- I suppose powers enter into

any question -- every question.

Q (continuing) --- to make these restrictions in spite of the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I wouldn't write it didactically like that. (laughter)

Q How would you write it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't write it. (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, when Mr. Green and Mr. Murray left the White House this week, they said they would be back next Thursday.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) Do you suppose, sir, one of the specific problems was wage stabilization before them at that time?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. They are still talking in generalities.

Q They seemed to have left ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They probably will talk in generalities until my Message goes up on Labor Day.

Q They seemed to leave with the impression that there is no inflexible freeze Order in sight, but rather an attempt to stabilize wages by stabilizing the ratio between wages and the cost of living.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Also stabilizing farm prices in the same way.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (continuing) Stabilizing the ratio between farm prices and the general cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (continuing) Would that be based on the -- on something like the Canadian system ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No.

Q (continuing) --- on certain ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No.

Q Are you and Mr. (Leon) Henderson in accord on your views on ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes.

Q (continuing) He keeps hammering on that subject.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, you said when the Message goes up. You mean you are going to make one Message to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- I think I will do it like I did before, Pete. I will send up a Message to Congress explaining the whole procedure, and then probably go on the air that night, just like I did before.

Q Mr. President, in generalities, did Mr. Murray and Mr. Green seem to accord with your views?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The objective.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And a good many of the farm people have too. I haven't talked to Ed O'Neal (American Farm Bureau Federation) yet. I talked to a good many of the others, and the objective is pretty generally accepted.

Q Sometime ago you talked to Mr. (Louis J.) Taber of the Grange ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) He reported the conversation which he had with you touching on the whole question of scrapping the entire concept of parity which he said was not a real yardstick. Has any specific ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That's a detail, as I said, I wouldn't be able to write on, because it's a pure matter of detail. He had -- Oh, Mr. (Albert) Goss (National Grange) had the idea that the present formula --

it's a detailed formula -- is not realistic, and he had an idea that we could get another formula. In fact, he went over and talked to Agriculture about his formula that he was proposing as a substitute, and they are still talking about it.

Q He also had the idea, did he not, that 110% of parity as a formula for prices for farm commodities was strictly inflationary and dangerous?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think it is.

Q And you agreed with him on that point?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, back to the meat question for a minute. Have you given any thought to the changes that that might make in the economies of the countries from which you get the meat -- would seriously hurt them?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be a very good thing for them.

Q Can you explain that a little more, please?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would say: My own problem of keeping my figure good -- (laughter) -- reasonably good. I don't think that the country's economics are going to be thrown very much out of gear by not eating meat on some specific day in the week.

Q It's the countries that supply the meat ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q It's the countries that supply the meat was what he was referring to.

Q In the Argentine.

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think that can be handled pretty well. Of course, Argentina is not nearly as far away as some of the other countries, like New Zealand, and Australia. I don't think that the production of meat down there need be cut out at all. May have to -- may have to store some in various places, maybe in refrigeration. And then of course, we are working on other things. We have a lot of ships that are going down

there that haven't got -- they are not refrigerator ships -- that are taking troops, and guns, and planes, and things like that.

And with Mr. Fraser we are working on the definite objective of having those ships come back with as much in the way of products of Australia and New Zealand as they possibly can, not having them come back empty. And it's working out pretty well.

Q Mr. President, ---

VOICES: (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook X-PC - page 1 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #845
Executive Office of the President
September 1, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Come in. Anybody got anything today? (asking the Administrative Assistants, et al)

(the President nodded to Earl Godwin as he sat down)

MR. GODWIN: How do you do.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I asked all the boys on the "roost" if they had anything, and they unanimously said, "No." (laughter) I haven't got a thing.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you would care to say on the third anniversary of the war?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I said something about it yesterday. I think that will do.

Q There's a story out of New Delhi, Mr. President, quoting General (Joseph W.) Stilwell -- it's for five o'clock release ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Where from?

Q New Delhi -- quoting General Stilwell as saying there are Japanese defensive preparations in Indo-China and China which indicate they are preparing for a northern campaign, and the chances are pretty good that they will attack Russia. Have you any information?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all.

Q Mr. President, he also, in that connection, said that the situation in India was such that supplies for the United States troops there were being delayed.

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. I hadn't heard a word about it.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, have you received a report from the War Production Board on the plans of the C.I.O. and the A.F.L., for more partici-

pation in the war effort? They want a member on the War Production Board.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't remember that, Pete.

MR. P. BRANDT: (Donald) Nelson had talks with groups of the A.F.L. and C.I.O.

THE PRESIDENT: About a week ago, wasn't it?

MR. P. BRANDT: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I have seen Nelson since then, two or three times. He hasn't mentioned it.

MR. P. BRANDT: Hasn't mentioned it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, have you received a report yet from the Justice Department on the legal questions involved in attacking the cost of living problem without additional legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I would say I have had -- I have had a great many verbal discussions. I haven't had anything final in writing.

Q Can you tell us, sir, whether in general they think you can proceed without new legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I couldn't tell you that.

Q Can you tell us Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Too general. I will tell you Monday.

Q Mr. President, in view of the threatened fuel shortage, do you plan to make any appeal to the country to conserve fuel this winter?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, haven't I done it once or twice before? I think so. I haven't got any special appeal in mind. I can tell you everybody knows what the situation is.

Q Reducing the temperature in the house, saving 25% of fuel, and so forth?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's awfully difficult to -- to make a hard and fast

rule. Some people cannot get on with mighty little -- less heat than they are using now, and other people can get along with a whole lot less heat -- probably will have to, in certain portions of the country, probably will have to reduce the total of fuel they have available in certain portions by 25%.

Q Mr. President, is any new position being considered for General (Patrick J.) Hurley, or will he go back to New Zealand as our Minister there?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing has been talked about at all.

Q Mr. President, what significance can be read into the resignation of (Shigenori) Togo, the Japanese Foreign Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I would have to -- first of all, before I even talked about it, I would have to get a verification. The story I heard was a report.

Q Rather difficult to get a verification out of Tokio these days. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's right -- or reasonable reports.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Sorry. It just "ain't."

MR. GODWIN: Things aren't good today.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #846
Executive Office of the President
September 11, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M.,E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe I have got anything today, except that you have read the Baruch (Rubber) Committee report, and I expect to have a "name" on Monday.

Q Could you give us any initials today, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. And more than that I wouldn't guess, just on the doctrine of experience. (more laughter) Excuse the subtlety of that.

Q Does that mean, Mr. President, that you are appointing the rubber administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: Well now, Mr. (Donald) Nelson (W.P.B.) is appointing him, but we will agree on it. (laughter) I have already talked to Mr. Nelson and several other people since Noon yesterday.

MR. GODWIN: Is it part of Nelson's organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's the part it recommends.

Q Mr. President, in your speech to the International Students' Assembly last week, you praised the resistance of the people of Serbia. This has caused some concern, with some reports that several persons have taken your use of the word "Serbia" to mean that you no longer recognize the existence of Yugoslavia. Did you perhaps mean to say "Yugoslavia"?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will have to confess it came from the fact that when I was younger I used to collect the stamps of Serbia, and it was a slip for that reason. I would have said "Yugoslavia," but having been a stamp collector in my very early days, I said "Serbia."

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, are you a stamp collector or a philatelist?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am just a "common garden" stamp collector.

MR. GODWIN: Just like the rest of us, all right.

Q Mr. President, do you think the 18 and 19 year olds will be needed before the first of the year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so, because I think we are taking in, under the present law, about as many men as we can actually train under the present facilities up to the first of the year.

Q Mr. President, do you think it will be wise to get enabling legislation before the first of the year for that purpose?

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking about that with the -- with the War Department.

MR. GODWIN: Now it may not have reached you, sir, but there is some talk in draft board circles, and Hershey's office, about the possibility of stopping all enlistments of these young men in the Navy, so that the Selective Service can pick them for whatever branch of the Service most needs them. Do you know anything about that at all, or have you anything to say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Under discussion. The Navy now, in enlisted personnel, is up to -- well, to a few days ago it was up to 694 thousand -- I think you can use the round figure of 700 thousand -- plus, of course, a very large officer increase also. And that is a matter that is being talked about.

Q Mr. President, have you seen the report in this morning's paper that Premier (Pierre) Laval (of Vichy France) had offered to send Jews rounded up -- transport them to the United States rather than Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, if by October 1st it appears that your anti-inflation bill is on the way in Congress, but has not yet passed, in that case will

you wait and give them a chance?

THE PRESIDENT: What was the first word of that question? (laughter)

Q The first word was "if."

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about this?

Q Mr. President, after the first of the year can you give us any time element at all on the 18 and 19 year olds?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh, Yes. I can't -- I can't tell you yet what it is going to be. It's under study. It will be -- something, I suppose, will turn up this fall, before the first of the year sometime. I can't tell you what it will be, because it's under study.

Q Mr. President, I have been asked to ask you about a statement that came out in New York sometime ago, which indicated that Jim Farley would like to have a little closer political rapprochement with you, perhaps to return to the old basis?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, somebody asked a question about politics -- I don't know what it was -- two weeks ago, and I haven't thought about it since. So I am no wiser now than I was then.

Q On this rubber survey, Mr. President, you said yesterday that the recommendations would be put into effect as rapidly as possible.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I hope by Monday.

Q Does that include all of the recommendations?

THE PRESIDENT: Practically all of them.

Q There may be some exceptions?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. Not that I know of.

Q Would that include nation-wide gasoline rationing too?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Yes, ---

Q (interposing) Roughly how long ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but it isn't gasoline rationing. You are all wrong. Yesterday I saw the headlines. They are completely wrong. It's a mileage rationing.

Q Mr. Baruch said it was a conservation program, but he did refer to gasoline rationing.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. It isn't gasoline rationing, it's mileage rationing.

Q Roughly how long will that take to prepare ---

Q (interposing) How are you going to arrive -- excuse me ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q How are you going to arrive -- what is going to be the administrative device by which you arrive at this mileage rationing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they gave a rule of thumb thing in the report, which was 5 thousand miles, which would be a saving of about 25% over the average mileage today.

Q What I meant, sir, wouldn't you do it by some such method as curtailing gasoline sales in order to restrict mileage?

THE PRESIDENT: There are lots of ways of restricting mileage. One of them is to only give enough gasoline for the mileage allowed to the car, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) That's what ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- that's right.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- we would call rationing ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a tire rationing thing. It's a mileage rationing thing which was arrived at. A lot of people, of course, have talked about reading peoples' meters (speedometers). Well, the trouble is that there are too many people in the country that know how to fix

their meters. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) To fix them, Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So some other method has to be adopted, that's all. But it is essentially a mileage rationing thing, that's right.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, do you see any necessity for any legislation on this -- that it won't be necessary to have any legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: To have what?

Q Legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think legislation is necessary on it.

Q Well, Mr. President, you said that some of these -- that practically all of these will be put into effect Monday. Will the mileage rationing plan be put into effect Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Heavens, you can't start a thing until you set up the machinery to do it. And essentially the machinery will be through the local boards, necessarily. It's a thing that shouldn't be handled from Washington. It has got to be done by a fellow's neighbors. A fellow's neighbors are the best judge as to whether he is using his car properly, much better than having it done from Washington.

Well, I will give you an illustration. You know, there has been a plea that has gone out from all over every State -- it has gone out from me, and everything -- to limit speed. Well, the other day, when I was in Hyde Park, I made a little test. I ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Was the President at Hyde Park, or Shangri La?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, call it Shangri La. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I got onto the main highway up in Rhinebeck, a

distance of 12 miles --- (loud laughter interrupting). This is terrible. I don't know how I am going to --- (more laughter interrupting).

Q (interjecting) Let's go back to Hyde Park. (again more laughter, and cries of "Sh--Sh")

THE PRESIDENT: And I ran 12 miles down the main Post Road. Well, as you know, it has been the case --- (more laughter interrupting) --- I think it's all right, I have escaped from there.

MR. EARLY: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: As you know, the Secret Service car is behind me, with machine guns all bristling, and so forth, and the State Troopers' car, all of them within about 50 feet of me, as usual.

I worked out something with them. They don't let under the rules -- their rules, not mine -- they don't let any car pass me on the highway, and they never have. So there forms when I go very slowly, there forms behind my car that I am driving a line of other cars that are going faster.

Well, I came onto the Post Road, and there were no cars behind me. And I -- as a test -- kept my car going as evenly to 35 miles an hour as I possibly could. And when I got to my gate and turned in, there were 22 cars that had piled up behind me. In other words, every one of those 22 cars had been going more than 35 miles an hour. And in 12 miles, 22 cars had piled up behind me.

Now there's an illustration of the fact that people are not living up to the request of the Governor of the State, and the President of the United States. And we have got to enforce the thing some way.

Q Have you any idea how you will do it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is up to the new "fellow" who comes in on Monday.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Roughly how long will it take, sir, to get the mileage business in effect?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You will have to ask the "fellow" on Monday.

Q Mr. President, the Baruch report said there was an inexplicable failure to accept Russia's offer last February of synthetic rubber information. Will that be attended to on Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Whose offer?

Q Russia -- Soviet Union?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. (laughter, evidently the expression on the President's face)

Q Mr. President, do I understand now that -- that Hyde Park is on the record, or is it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. You can leave it -- this time -- on the record.

Q Thank you, sir.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #847
Executive Office of the President
September 15, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M.,E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Sometimes I think I am clairvoyant. One of you present today is going to ask me a question, and I might as well tell you what the question is and answer it. Mind you, I don't know who it is, except that I am told a little bird out there tells me that he is going to say, "Mr. President, as a householder, have you got together your scrap pile for the new collection campaign?" My answer, prepared by Steve (Early) -- (laughter) -- is as follows:

"About three months ago the White House and the Executive Offices were searched for scrap metal and other needed scrap materials. Three big Navy Yard trucks were called and took this salvaged scrap to the Navy Yard. The search was continued for additional scrap around the White House, and about a week ago another truckload was collected and sent to the Navy Yard. In all, about 5 tons of scrap metals have been collected and turned in. Except for some additional scrap that may be found in the new east wing when construction there has been finished, those in charge of the search for scrap materials say the White House attic, cellars, offices, and store-rooms have been thoroughly cleaned out."

So, you see, we are trying to set a good example in this scrap metal campaign. And I am perfectly sure, from personal observation at the various Shangri Las that I occasionally occupy -- I am not going to get rebuked by Steve again -- (laughter) -- that people have not completedly searched up to the present time, in the average home. There

is still an awful lot of scrap metal lying around in practically every home in the United States, large or small. And that is why I very much hope that this new campaign for scrap is going to help a lot more. We haven't got to the point -- period in the country where we have to take doorknobs -- (laughter from May Craig, who brought up that question before) -- and ornamental ironwork, but if people don't hurry and get the other kind of scrap that really is scrap -- get it in -- we will have to be a lot more drastic and just plain take it away.

So I hope that this campaign will be the success it deserves.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, with respect to that campaign, public -- much -- many members of the public have piles of scrap, and it seems the local organizations haven't got to the point of properly collecting ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) That's another thing, if you care to get in on that. That would help.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And I think also, very much, in any community that hasn't got adequate collecting organizations, that the people who have got the scrap and know that the local organization collecting it is not up to what it ought to be, they ought to write in and tell about it.

Q Mr. President, has it come to your attention that some of these local organizations have written to the War Production Board, protesting the feature of the present plan for tin can scrap collection, which ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- provides that the brewers and soft-drink bottlers will get a little "take" out of this scrap collection that may amount to as much as 100 thousand tons of tin scrap, which would seem to be quite a large item.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe anything like that amount. Of course -- what's this for, caps for bottles?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, there are lots of soft-drinks that are put up with caps.

Q That's what I said -- the brewers and soft-drinks.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose one of the simplest things to say is this: that we don't want to prevent people from drinking soft-drinks in the country. (laughter) And I think it is part of our civilization to drink soft-drinks.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Certainly.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And if somebody would invent a bottle cap that was not made of metal, they would have the everlasting thanks of the soft-drink drinkers throughout the nation. Nobody has discovered it yet.

Q Including ---

Q (interposing) Do you think Mr. (James A.) Farley (Chairman of the Committee for Export Division of the Coca Cola company) would like that?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Do you think Mr. Farley would like that? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Along the same lines, sir, I understand that if you add this -- this scrap that they are getting, plus the black plate -- the virgin black plate they are getting between the brewers and soft-drink operators, plus the old bottle caps they are using, that they have considerably more steel than they used in the peak of 1941.

THE PRESIDENT: Why more?

Q Well, they just are getting it.

THE PRESIDENT: They are getting it?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, all those things are only, you might say, small details in the use of -- in the use of metal, but they all add up to something. I suppose that we can all find 50 different kinds of examples -- special industries -- special needs. The main thing is we want the scrap.

Q Mr. President, in your Labor Day Message to Congress you said that the calculation of parity -- farm parity must include all costs of production, including the cost of labor. Did you mean the only -- only the cost of farm labor, or all labor costs?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that today, because the matter is in the hands of the Congress, and if I started to explain, which I probably couldn't, many of you wouldn't understand it anyway. And in other words, that is a kind of a question that takes very technical knowledge. I think we had better let the thing be worked out by the Congress this week.

Q Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only got one other thing. We have tomorrow for the second time a ceremony which will be just like the previous one when we turned over the sub-chaser -- the patrol craft -- to the Queen of The Netherlands. We are doing it again tomorrow at -- when is it, 12 o'clock?

MR. EARLY: 12.30.

THE PRESIDENT: 12.30 - to the Norwegian navy, down in the Navy Yard. It is just like the previous ceremony.

MR. GODWIN: Turning over of the ---

Q (interposing) Same type of ship?

THE PRESIDENT: Same type of ship. I make the same kind of speech, and the Crown Princess of Norway makes the same kind of speech. She goes on board and inspects the ship, and they run down one flag and hoist the other flag. Some of you were there. Just the same thing.

Q Are we all invited?

THE PRESIDENT: Ah, I couldn't tell you. (laughter) Have you got your badges to the Navy Yard?

Q We can get them.

MR. EARLY: They were last time.

THE PRESIDENT: Were they last time? All right then, you can come again. You didn't do any material damage the last time. (laughter)

Q (aside) They couldn't sweep up.

Q Mr. President, is there any news on the rubber administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, No.

Q Do you expect it today?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Mr. President, last week Chairman Olds made a speech up in Northern New York ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Who?

Q Chairman Olds of the Federal Power Commission made a speech in Northern New York, urging immediate construction of the St. Lawrence Waterway. Does that mean, sir, that the Government is going ahead with that now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether they have finished the surveys that they have got the money for or not.

Q Chairman Olds said the surveys were completed.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will have to look into that. Of course, it's a very,

very much needed thing. And the power is very much needed. Unfortunately, there has been a delay of over a year in starting the construction. And that has raised, of course, the question as to whether -- you all know it takes three years to finish power production -- even three years and six months, I think it is, to finish the navigational end -- and whether at this time -- we, having been blocked in starting it when we wanted to -- we can properly start something that will take raw materials at this particular time, on the assumption that the war is going to last three, or three and a half years longer. It's a matter that's open to debate, always remembering the fact that the thing would be nearly half finished by this time, if they had gone ahead when we asked them to start it.

Q Is this a question, sir, of including -- of starting the power works as well as the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, of course.

Q The whole project is involved?

THE PRESIDENT: Power and -- primarily power at this stage. We are going to run into a shortage of power all through there -- New England and New York, clear down to New York City. However, the water has gone over the dam with the passage of time, and it's a question now of whether its worthwhile to go ahead and use the raw materials. Not -- not our fault.

Q I was going to ask, Mr. President, if what you said a little while ago, that we have been held up on (the St. Lawrence project) -- could you elaborate a little bit on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think you know I recommended to Congress a year and a half ago, and I recommended to Congress two years ago, and three years

ago, and four years ago.

Q Mr. President, you mentioned the assumption that the war is going to last three and a half years longer. Is that a minimum estimate?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't think it's either a minimum or a maximum. It's a guess.

Q Mr. President, (Rear) Admiral (W.H.P.) Bland, or Blandy (correct), has made a statement at Secretary Knox' (Press) Conference, that our Navy now holds the balance of the power in the Pacific, and is prepared to repel anything the Japanese can send. Do you agree with him, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen it.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #848
Executive Office of the President
(Thursday) October 1, 1942 -- 5.05 P.M., E.W.T.

(this Press Conference was held upon return of the President from a two weeks' tour of the United States, September 17 to October 1, inclusive)

THE PRESIDENT: Come right in, "Pa." Elmer (Davis), how are you?

Q We blocked out the Press Associations. They are behind.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is everybody?

Q We blocked out the Press Associations. They are behind.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q We blocked out the Press Associations. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Great big bunch of kids. Is that right, Jim? (more laughter)

Q (to Mr. Early) Steve, been away?

MR. EARLY: Got your letter.

Q "Having wonderful time. Wish you were here." (laughter)

Q The Press Associations are in the back row, Steve.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I asked you all to come in today because -- because I just got back to the White House at 12.30 (P.M.). I have seen a lot of people already. I thought it would be easier for all of you to hold the Conference today instead of tomorrow morning. And there isn't any news, except the news about this trip, which you can now print because obviously I am here.

We started two weeks ago tonight, and went out to Detroit -- and I will try to summarize this part of it if I can, because all the papers have got it already. Anyway, I went out to Detroit and saw the -- first the tank plant -- the Chrysler company -- which I thought was a very

amazing example of what can be done with proper organization, with the right spirit of carrying it through, and proper planning. Shortly before we got there, they shifted over the whole plant essentially from making M-3 tanks to making M-4 tanks, a different model, and they didn't stop the output one single hour in doing it.

And then we went on to the (Ford) Willow Run plant, which is one of the latest. I think we have to remember that most of the plants that I saw -- it is worth noting the fact that nearly all of these plants were authorized and started a great many months before Pearl Harbor. In other words, they are the result of the program of preparedness, which turned out to be so much needed after the Japanese struck us at Pearl Harbor. This took a great deal of time by the forelock. That was the reason, for example, for the Willow Run plant, which I think was started in April, 1941. They are not yet in production. They are very nearly ready to go into production.

Then we went on, that night, to the Great Lakes Training Station (Great Lakes, Illinois) -- Friday night -- got there Saturday morning in a drizzle, and saw the -- what is today the largest naval training center we have, I think; and doing, of course, excellent work. It is already larger than the same training station had been expanded to in the World War, and it still has about 15 thousand trainees to go.

Then we went on to Milwaukee -- the Allis-Chalmers plant -- and saw some work there on all kinds of things. You couldn't say it was any one specialty. They are doing a great deal of work for the Navy, and a good deal of work for the Army, running from very large, heavy munitions down to the smaller things. That's a case of an old plant with only one -- I think one new building in it, which, however, has been turned almost

exclusively into Government work, and is getting on very well.

Then we went up to a cartridge plant (Federal Cartridge Corporation, New Brighton, Minnesota) between the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. And there they are not yet up to their full production capacity. But that also was a plant that was started well before Pearl Harbor. And they still have one unit to build that was authorized a short time ago. They are turning out 30 calibre and 50 calibre ammunition. And we hit the night shift, getting there at 11 P.M., both in that plant and in the other plants.

Really, the result of the first two days of inspection -- the thing that I think that struck all of us most was the large number of women that were employed in machine work, and that means not merely running the small, what might be -- what shall I say? -- the sewing machine type of machine, but also some of the largest and heaviest machines, which require great skill and great accuracy, and at the same time do not require heavy manual labor. The reason is that they are -- the big machines are operated largely by push-buttons. They are turning out cartridges at an extremely heavy rate, helping us to get on -- well on, considering their problem of small arms munitions of various types.

We left shortly after midnight and went right on to -- to a place called Pend Oreille (map spelling). I had better spell it for you because everybody else misspells it. (as heard by this reporter): P-E-N-D d-'-O-R-E-I-L-L-Y -- meaning, of course, in the early days of the French explorers out there.

And here I went -- it's a great lake out there. That and the Coeur d'Alene are the two largest lakes in Northern Idaho; and because we have tried, as you know -- to disseminate the congestion which has

always existed on the east coast and the west coast for Navy facilities -- to put this naval training station inland. They just -- they had gone into commission 5 days before I was there, and they already had about a thousand trainees who were coming in at the rate of 2 or 3 hundred a day. It's wonderful country, and it's a good lake. It doesn't freeze in the wintertime. And it's going to be of very great assistance in providing the naval personnel that are necessary, especially out in the Pacific area.

Then we went on to a place just outside of Tacoma (Washington) -- Fort Lewis -- which is one of our principal Army Posts on the west coast. We saw a Post, which I had known before as a relatively small Post, multiplied four or five times in its capacity for -- for troops. It is the main Army Post of the whole of the northwest Pacific.

Then from there we motored to the Bremerton Navy Yard, and saw wounded ships and wounded men. There again the Yard had been enormously expanded two or three times what it had been in the World War. There was a little old golf course up on the side of the hill that I used to play on, now covered with buildings and machinery for repairing and building ships.

And we went across by ferry to Seattle, and saw the Army embarkation unit, consisting of a number of piers, and a great amount of storage, from which, of course, embarkations are taking place all the time for operations off-shore in the Pacific.

And then we went to the Boeing plant (in Seattle) and went through that. They seem to be in very good shape turning out planes that are steady at a very high rate.

Then I went and had supper with Anna and John Boettiger, took the

train again that night at ten, and went on down into the next morning to Vancouver, which is opposite Portland, and saw the (Alcoa) aluminum plant, because aluminum -- one of the chief reasons was I knew it was working well, but I had to find out something about how aluminum is made. I think I can put it this way: Just with an ordinary brain, it was so complicated, and so much chemistry in it, that I came away knowing a little bit more than I knew before, but still -- not being a technician -- still neither quite understanding how you make aluminum.

However, the fact remains that aluminum is coming out. And that was one of the rather interesting sidelights of the whole trip, that there does not seem to be any appreciable shortage of aluminum in the actual building of planes at the present time. Of course, as the program steps up -- might say doubles -- there will be need for the new aluminum plants to get into operation and turn out a lot more stuff.

Then we went across to the (Henry J.) Kaiser yards and saw a ship launched, and saw the method of building those merchant ships. And there again the speed of production, I think, was interesting to all of us. That was only one of several plants -- with 6 plants that Kaiser has out on the coast. But the fact remains that the ships are going over-board and are being placed in service.

Of course you understand that when you read about launching a ship in 10 days, it does not mean that the whole ship has been built in 10 days. A very large number of sections of the ship are built in the -- in the plant, and are then taken to the ways and put together.

However, there is another phase that hasn't been emphasized enough. After the ship was launched -- and by the way it was launched with steam up, blowing its whistle -- (laughter) -- it was then taken around to a

pier on the other side of the plant, and will be turned over complete for actual use in, I think it was 13 days more. Am I right, John (McCrea), on that?

CAPTAIN McCREA: Less than that, sir. 11 ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

CAPTAIN McCREA: 3 or 4 more days ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Then they average 13 -- 4 days. That particular ship we actually turned over to a crew that was going to take it to sea.

From there we went down to the Mare Island Navy Yard, and saw again a Navy Yard just about 3 times as big as it ever had been before. We saw the Jap two-man submarine which had been captured at Pearl Harbor, and we saw one of our own submarines with 9 Japanese flags painted on the conning tower.

From there we went down to the Army embarkation port at Oakland, which is an enormous organization from which a large portion of our supplies of men and materials go out to many parts of the Pacific.

Then down to the Naval Supply Base, which is right along side of it, and in many ways serves the same purpose.

Then from there down to Los Angeles, and we saw the Douglas plant (at Long Beach, California), on Saturday morning -- Friday morning, I guess.

And then by train down to San Juan Capistrano, which is the place that the old Mission is, and where the swallows come to every spring on a -- on the same date.

Right back of that was this famous old Spanish land grant ranch that belonged to the -- what? -- go on, tell me the name of it? Pio Pico, wasn't it?

CAPTAIN McCREA: I am not sure, sir.

Q (interjecting) Santa Margarita?

THE PRESIDENT: Right. Santa Margarita ranch, owned by the Pio Pico family in the old days, and that we purchased a short time ago. And the Marines are already in there, using it as their main training center for the whole of the west coast. They only have about 5 thousand men there now, but that will be rapidly increased to probably -- what? -- 20 or 25 thousand.

Then, from there down to San Diego, we saw the naval hospital, and a lot more wounded men from actions in the Pacific.

Then to the naval training center.

Then to the old Marine Corps base (Camp Pendleton), and from there to the Consolidated plant, where they are stepping up production all the time; and dined with another son (Lieutenant John), and his wife and family (at Coronado), and left that same night.

Mind you, we spent 14 nights on the train, and not one night ashore.

And from there on to Uvalde, Texas, where I had the pleasure of seeing my old friend Jack (John Nance Garner), who was just the same, and by the way, sent his love to all his old friends in Washington. He is in fine shape, and mentioned that -- I asked him in passing what he thought about farm parity and the prevention of inflation. And he agreed -- with every other person that I had talked to all the way out and down the coast -- that the people as a whole were a bit jittery in regard to an increase in the cost of living, and anything we could do to stop the cost of living would remove one of the fears that people have all over the country. In fact, one of the major fears all through

that whole section, both in the larger cities and in the country districts, seems to be a fear of a rise in the cost of living.

Then from there we went to San Antonio, to Kelly Field and Randolph Field, and saw -- of course that is the main aviation training center of the country. There are a great many others that take up certain special lines, but this is the training in preliminary and basic work, not the final finishing touches that pilots go other places to get.

We also stopped at -- at Fort Sam Houston (Texas), which is an old Post, which has not been greatly enlarged, but which -- where I had the pleasure of seeing for sentimental reasons the old -- I think it is all right to give out the name of that division -- the old Second Division, which I saw on the other side in the summer of 1918. Over in those days the Marines had two -- that was my excuse besides wanting to see something of the fighting abroad -- had two regiments of Marines in it. But as we are constituted today, it's all Army. There are no Marines. The Marines have got up sufficient strength to have divisions of their own.

Let's see, where did we go then? Then we took the train overnight to New Orleans, the (Andrew J.) Higgins (Shipbuilding Corporation) Yard.

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Forth Worth.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Forth Worth, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Forth Worth. That's right -- Fort Worth. And got there in the morning, and went out to see daughter-in-law (Mrs. Eliott Roosevelt) and her family. And in the afternoon to the (Consolidated)

bomber assembly plant, which is -- I should say it is just getting into production, but they are not anywhere near up to what they will be in, when they get the spare parts and materials from other plants. They are not to make all of the parts that go into an airplane. They are primarily an assembly plant.

Then from there, overnight, to the Higgins yard in New Orleans, where I saw a great many small boats being built.

And from there on to Camp Shelby (Hattiesburg, Mississippi), where we reviewed another division, and saw the -- how that Camp had been expanded. I had never been there before.

And yesterday we turned up at Camp (Fort) Jackson, just outside of Columbia, South Carolina, and saw -- reviewed another division, which was in a different stage of training from any that we had seen before.

And well, here we are!

Now I have got some highlights. I think I had better tell you what I gave to the Press Association boys.

Number one. I really do want to express my thanks to the press, and the radio people, and the newsreel people, and the photographers, because of the fine way in which they have cooperated in delaying the publication of the news about the trip until it was over -- until I had got back to Washington. As you know, the 3 Press Associations were along (Douglas Cornell for Associated Press; Merriman Smith for United Press; J. William Theis for International News Service). And they were given -- I think they will be the first to admit -- complete freedom on the trip. And the 4 Navy photographers made pictures, which of course -- some of which have come here, and all of which have got to pass through a -- the censorship, because laymen and even Navy

enlisted men might not realize what some of the pictures were showing. We saw a lot of stuff, of course, that was confidential.

And number two. Of course, there was no suppression of news on the trip, only this confidential stuff, mostly photographs. I think the Press Association boys, knowing the regular censorship news, had absolutely no trouble in -- in writing their stories. I can say that there was absolutely -- I think I am right in saying that there was nothing cut out of the stories, and there was nothing in their stories which would have been considered dangerous to give out.

Q Were they subject to censorship, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Were they subject to the censorship laws?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I read them over, that was all -- (laughter) -- and cut out nothing.

Q Did you add anything? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I did. (turning to Mr. Early) I added several touches, didn't I?

Incidentally, in this -- in this method, which has been so well lived up to by the newspaper publishers and all of the others, is an illustration that we are giving you prompt publication of the news, as fast as it can be properly given, and that is being lived up to. There are various items -- various elements that enter into it -- into a trip of that kind, including placing in jeopardy the lives of our relatives and friends who are in the naval services.

Now, on impressions on the trip, I have spoken about the large number of women workers. It's an amazing thing how they are working into the production of munitions with very great success. In some of

the plants we saw -- this is not just stenographers in the office, these are women running machines, and inspecting parts as they come out of a machine. And some plants run 20%. Some of the airplane plants are running 30%, even -- I think one of them -- 40%, and ---

Q (interposing) Is that skilled or unskilled labor?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Is that skilled or unskilled female labor?

THE PRESIDENT: Very highly skilled -- very. And it is getting up, according to the -- to the managers and operators of these plants, so that probably within another year in very many of the plants, half of all the labor in the plants will be women labor.

Then I am going to create an awful disappointment in the ranks of a few people who put a thing down, not as a guess, an erroneous guess, but as a fact. The only people I saw on the trip who were remotely connected with politics, but with whom I did not discuss politics at any moment, were the 11 Governors of the 11 States that we passed through. (Michigan - Wisconsin - Minnesota - Idaho - Washington - Oregon - California - Texas - Louisiana - Mississippi - South Carolina). Nobody running for Congress, or the Senate, or for local or State office.

No chairman, no committee member. Nobody at all but the 11 Governors.

Q Did you say no committee member, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No committee members.

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: All of whom we saw at the plants and said good-bye to at the plants. So I am sorry to have to shock the readers of certain -- writers. (meaning: So I am sorry to have to shock certain writers).

As we come down to the question of labor and management, I would

say that labor and management both are going along magnificently with the whole objective of output, as fast and as good as we can get it. There are -- there are certain -- I would say as a whole -- I think I said to the others that I am very well satisfied, because the production is so nearly up to the -- not the estimate but the goal. Every once in a while you find a plant that isn't clicking quite as well as it should. Occasionally the labor is not as efficient as it will be when it gets more trained. Occasionally the -- there are small shortages of materials which prevent an operation from going through as fast as it would be otherwise, but -- same sentence -- I would say offhand that the production as a whole through the country is around 94 or 95% of the objective.

And remember that last January, when I talked about the objective in the Message to Congress, there were a great many "doubting Thomases" who said we couldn't do half of it, people who deliberately sabotaged -- mostly deliberately sabotaged the program before it got started. Well, I think 94 or 95% is an objective that covers the working out of a great war. It's a pretty darn good record.

Q Mr. President, do you think it's going to reach 100 by the end of the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No. It's impossible. That would be impossible.

Q Impossible?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, sure.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, you take anything -- you take a newspaper office. In a newspaper office, if you are running a big paper, if you have efficient men on the mechanical end to the tune of

94 or 95% efficient, wouldn't you call that a pretty good record? If you had a hundred reporters, and a hundred out of the hundred reporters were satisfactory to the desk, wouldn't you call that impossible? (laughter)

Q A miracle.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) There, you see it? You can't have anything that's perfect, but when you get up to 94 or 95%, that's a pretty darn good record.

Q Could you indicate where there is diversity of causes for the 4 or 5%?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes, all kinds, little and big. Some of them, of course -- I wouldn't say that -- I would say the majority of them are completely unpreventible -- completely.

Q Mr. President, I want -- I wonder if my question was misunderstood? What I meant was if 100% of the January objective would be reached this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it will be, as to the totals of -- totals of units to be produced. It is going to be greatly exceeded, because I think I can give you this tip-off that that January objective -- I am going to ask for more, certainly within the next few months ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- an even greater production than we are getting up to today. Of course, we are not up to the 94 or 95% of the January objective of production. Nothing like it.

Q Mr. President, even -- even before now, you have asked for a larger production in 1942 on some of the things you mentioned ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

Q (continuing) --- in January?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, did you say that we aren't up to 94% of the January production?

THE PRESIDENT: Of the January goal? No. Nothing like it. Heavens, No.

Q Which January are you talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope that we will get it by the time set, which is December.

Q That goal is for January, 1943, and we are 94% of that objective?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The goal was in two parts. For instance, on airplanes it was a total of, as I remember it, a total of 60 thousand, at the rate of 60 thousand by December, 1942. Well, we are going to come pretty close to it, but we are not up to it now, not even 94 or 95%.

Q Did you not ask for 60 thousand planes?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- rate of. That was perfectly clearly understood. And in 1943, by the end of the year, at the rate of -- what? --- 125 (thousand)?

Q 125.

Q 125.

Q 125.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Which of course included all kinds of types of planes -- trainer planes, and so forth. And I think that it's no particular secret to say that the trainer plane facilities have been so greatly met, that the rate of production of trainer planes next year will slow down, and their places will be taken by other types of planes, at, of course, a -- a slower rate of units, because a trainer plane is much easier to build than a fighting plane.

Q Mr. President, what is that 94%? I wasn't able to -- I was confused, too, on that 94%.

THE PRESIDENT: Of efficiency. You can say all objectives as of the date of this trip. And, well, just for example, you take the cartridge plant up there in the northwest. They are up to schedule, which means as of the last half of September, 1942. They are not up to the -- to the rate of units that they will be getting out next month, or the month after, or the month after that.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, may I put it another way, Mr. President? Of the January objectives -- planes, tanks, guns, ammunition, and so forth -- can you say now that -- what percentage you expect to be attained? What rate of production do you expect ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The objective.

Q About 94 or 95% by the end of the year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Then, on the question -- now, going back to reactions of people, I think it can be said that the people of the country as a whole have got the finest kind of morale. They are very alive to the war spirit. I am making no invidious distinctions between sections. Everywhere I went the spirit was -- was excellent. The understanding was good.

Even on things like -- Oh, a certain amount of trouble in working out, as for instance, I would say, down in the southwest, where they have a lot of -- of oilwells, when because of the shortage caused by lack of transportation, of getting gasoline up to New England and New York, we had to ration gasoline there. There was a tremendous howl from people who couldn't understand, because they were out living next to an oilwell, and they didn't want to be rationed. And finally, as it is working out, as you know, we are coming to a rationing of mileage

all over the country, and the people down there understand it, and are wholeheartedly behind it. That's a change in attitude because now they understand it.

I would say, on the other hand, that there is less understanding in just one place in the country --it's a lot less -- Washington, D. C.

Q Any particular part in Washington? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I was afraid you would ask that question. Well, I would say in three ways. You know I am always brutally frank. I have been around the country, and very, very few of you could have.

Q That's not our fault. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we would have had -- what? -- 3 special trains, I guess, if we had taken you all -- just about -- including the photographers, and so forth, and the radio people, and all the others. It was physically impossible.

I would say, in regard to Washington, D. C., that there are three situations in this town which are not good. And I will put the two most important ones first, and the less important one third.

The first is the fact that we all know that -- and it is perfectly natural, I would do the same thing, so would you -- in the Congress you have a great many people who want to justify their help to the war effort. And it's a tendency that isn't new at all. It was a tendency which started with the provincial Congress -- the Continental Congress in 1775, and it has been going on ever since. A perfectly obvious, understandable and human effort to take part in the war by looking into this, that, and the other thing, which they can't possibly have opinions about that are of any great validity, because there are so many facts in a war which either are based on military information, or which cannot

be explained to a lay mind. They are essentially facts for trained military and naval officers, who are responsible primarily for the conduct of the strategy and operation of the war. As I said, it's a perfectly normal, natural development, dating back to 1775. And of course, there are literally hundreds of examples in our past history.

Then the other factor in this is the press, which doesn't seem to know the country, and like the Congressman is very apt to think in the local terms of the papers that they represent, giving out sententious views -- perfectly honest views, which are nevertheless sententious -- because of the fact that they don't know. That's the radio too, the radio announcers. Not all -- of course not. Not all of the news stories by any means. Most of them, I would say, are straight news stories. But there is an unfortunate minority of news stories which just "ain't" so. They just are not based on fact. And more than that, they tell people in the country things that are not in existence. Some of them are honestly written. Some of them are written for other reasons, which perhaps we need not go into. They represent a minority, but at present they are doing infinite harm to the country. The majority of press stories that go out from here, especially the news stories ---. The greatest offense of course is in the -- among the commentators, and the columnists, in both the press and the radio. It's -- it's a sort of a ---.

Then the third point ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, do you have ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- a concrete illustration of this latter point?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think No. I could give you a very great many, but it

involves personalities, and it would merely inflate the person mentioned. In many cases.

The third point relates to a great many people in the Administration itself, who are very apt to rush into print or hand out stuff. Well, they may be the fourth or fifth man down the line, or they may be seeking publicity. If they are the fourth or fifth man down the line, probably they don't know the whole story, except their own version of the little individual piece of work which they themselves are doing for the Government. They haven't got a rounded view. Sometimes it's in a speech which seeks to be picturesque. Sometimes it's with the perfectly honest belief that their particular "ism" -- specialty -- is not being properly handled. We have that type of person, of course, in the Administration. And so there you have those branches of the Government and the "fourth estate," all of whom are guilty to a greater or less extent.

Q Did you say that the third class was the least important?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say so, because it's largely created by you people. You see, you are very apt to go to the fourth or fifth man down the line ---

Q (interposing) We would like to go to the top but that's as far as we can get.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- to get the story. And then, you know, the attribution, which is an old, old story, "from reliable sources," and so forth.

Q Mr. President, in that connection, we have had 4 speeches here in the last week by high Government officials, all along exactly the same theme, that we are losing this war, largely by reason of our failure to produce

as rapidly as we should.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) In the light of your report here, those reports seem to be exaggerated. I gather you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't seen all four that you refer to. I have seen two or three, and let me put it this way: If I had been in their place, I would not have said it.

Q Mr. President, does that include the Rear Admiral (Ben Moreell, Chief of the U. S. Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks) who suggested that labor unions be abolished?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't heard about that. (laughter) Then ---

Q (interposing) Did you say the goals would be exceeded, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q I understood you to say at one time that some of the last January's goals would be exceeded.

THE PRESIDENT: That what?

Q I understood you to say that some -- some of last year's January goals would be exceeded, and then, generally, that 94 or 95% of the January goals would be attained.

THE PRESIDENT: Both. Both of those statements are true.

Q I see.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, with the progress of the war, some of the January program has been slowed down deliberately, because we don't need so many of any particular type of article. Now, on some other instrument of war we find that our estimates are not sufficient. Because of the progress of the war they need to make more of them. So something else is cut down and will be below, and something else will

be above, because it's found more essential.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, I am not quite clear in my mind. What is the complaint about the press?

THE PRESIDENT: May, ask the press.

MISS MAY CRAIG: I mean your complaint about us.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, ---

MISS MAY CRAIG: (interposing) I mean it quite seriously.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I would ask the press. They all know.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Well, I don't.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's very simple. I am saying that about certain elements in press and radio that are hurting the war effort. And we all know. I don't have to particularize on it at all. You people know better than -- even better than I do who the fellows are, who the owners of the papers are. You know far better than I do.

Q Mr. President, Mr. (Donald) Nelson said yesterday that production was nothing to brag about.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Mr. Nelson said yesterday, or the day before, that production is nothing to brag about.

VOICES: Louder, louder.

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing to brag about? Well, what else did he say? Did he say where?

Q He was speaking generally, he said, although the figures are impressive.

THE PRESIDENT: I have said over a year ago I am not satisfied. You know, you have asked me that question three or four times, and it has always been "No." If it could be twice as fast, twice as big, I will never be satisfied.

Q August production was off 15%.

THE PRESIDENT: That what?

Q August production was off 15% of the goal.

THE PRESIDENT: August production off 15% of the goal?

Q Well, that was short of the goal, short of the level set at the beginning of the month.

Q Mr. President, (September) production was 14% below the goals or estimates.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would like to see the breakdown of those figures. You see, they may not be all-inclusive.

Q Mr. President, would you care to deal specifically with any one community where you visited?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think they were -- all stand out as having a perfectly grand spirit. And that -- that, incidentally, applies not only to the munitions plants but to almost all the other things as well.

Agriculture! The number of stories that I heard about how they are getting the crops in, with half of the hired hands gone. Those Communities where -- small communities where they haven't got enough men to pick the -- what? -- fruit, and they -- they then decide on three days, or four days, and the banker, and the editor of the paper, and the drugstore fellow, and the garage man, and the children, they all give up what they are doing and go into the fields for three or four days, and -- By gosh! -- get the crops in.

Now that's the kind of spirit that we lack in Washington, D. C. You've got the reporters, you've got everybody else going into the fields, and they have got the crops in as a result. It's a community effort. We need more of that. That is true -- that is true about

everything.

Q I would like to deal, sir, with two or three rumors that have been brought up as a result of your visit to Minneapolis, if you would care to talk about it. Can I ask you about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) One is that at the Twin Cities ordnance plant, scores of workers were called in for that night only, in order to make a good showing. Do you know anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: That is not true. What they did was to ask the 11 o'clock shift -- which is the time that the shift changes -- to be there at 10 o'clock, that was all, so that they would not be in the middle of shifting a shift.

Q Another, if I may ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- proceed with this, another is that a worker came up to you to show you some shells, and he got a little excited, and turned around and ran, and the guards were apprehensive of any sudden action and hit him. Do you know anything as to that?

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it at all. (to Mr. Early): Did you know of any episode of that kind?

MR. EARLY: No, sir, I didn't see it.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anybody did.

Q I merely ask you this ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- to set it at rest, because they are current.

THE PRESIDENT: One of the funniest things -- in most of these places they hadn't got the foggiest idea that I was coming there, and we would drive

down the middle of a great big plant, and -- and here is a compliment for the ladies. There would be men and women working at tools of all kinds, and there was a vague impression of the party. I think that they saw out of the corner of their eye a big car coming down through the center, and probably said to themselves, "I wonder who this is?" And I should say that more women stuck to their work and didn't stop than men, -- (laughter) -- showing that the old idea of the curiosity of a woman is ill-founded.

MR. J. WRIGHT: Mr. President, I don't want to be captious about this at all, but in the early part of the conference you complimented the press on the way they had not printed anything.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. J. WRIGHT: (continuing) Now you complain of the -- some of the things that are being printed.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no relationship.

MR. J. WRIGHT: Honestly, I don't know what certain elements of the radio or press are hurting the war effort.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, ---

MR. J. WRIGHT: (continuing) I don't know who they are, or what you know about them.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- well, I am not going to elaborate any further.

MR. J. WRIGHT: I don't understand, Mr. President. I am sorry.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we won't go into names.

Q Do you think, Mr. President, you should put that last point first?

THE PRESIDENT: What last point?

Q The point which is about the Administration officials shooting off?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q Mr. President, what can be done about that last point?

THE PRESIDENT: Get a bit of a different spirit in Washington. Button -- there's an old -- an expression, "Button up our mouths." Don't use as many pencils.

Q Mr. President, I think that Mr. (Edward F.) Ryan (Washington Post) has the impression that there was a connection between your remarks about the attitude of the press towards your trip, and your remarks about the attitude of a portion of the press.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, no relationship between those two at all.

And I think probably the only other thing I can say is that the trip worked so well, better than any inspection trip I have made. I am thinking, as soon as I can -- I don't know when, maybe next spring -- of taking another trip, or trips, to other parts of the country that I did not visit this time.

Q Mr. President, may I ask if any speeches were made at any of these ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The -- you have copies of them. I think they were about four sentences long. I got into the Bremerton Navy Yard, which is an old stamping ground of mine, and they asked me to say a few words -- they had all the workmen, most of the workmen, end of shift -- and I did. I think I spoke for a minute and a half, and talked a little bit about wounded ships and wounded men.

And then the next day, at the time the ship was launched, there was quite a ceremony, and all of the Kaiser employees -- employees were out there. And the bottle of champagne was duly broken. And everybody -- I was up on a platform -- and everybody began yelling, "Speech -- speech -- speech." So I said, again, about three more sentences. I don't think

you will find those two speeches -- which were not speeches -- were thrilling, or even pieces of news.

Q Mr. President, did you get any particular impression at the Higgins Shipbuilding (Corporation) in New Orleans that you might mention?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that they are turning out small boats at an incredible rate.

Q Mr. President, you spoke about these three bad situations in Washington. I understood what you said about the press, but could you be a little more specific about Congress? (laughter) I understood you to say that certain Members don't understand, that only experts could. But where you -- you said about this minority of the press that was hurting the war effort, would you also apply that to some Members of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know that I could give any specific examples. I don't think that would be quite fair to the Congress any more than the press. But we know, for example, that during the past 3 weeks we had a very important matter relating to the war effort and the safety of the country, and it did take 3 weeks to get it through -- get something through. I don't know yet what is going through, because probably, I think, they don't meet until tomorrow -- the conferees.

But I keep thinking that in the old days, in 1933, when the country was economically on its back, and people's pocketbooks were being hit, we were able to get absolutely essential remedial legislation to save the economics of our own people at home -- nowhere else. We were able to get legislation of all kinds, some in 24 hours, some in two or three days, some in a week.

Now, of course, I think that where the very existence of a nation is threatened from the outside, that it is of even more importance to

have speed than it is in the case of an internal, economic matter. And in 1933, those of you who were here know that we were able to get things done at that time without any delay. And yet we know that today in the Congress there has been delay.

Q Mr. President, aside from the time element, are you satisfied with what Congress has done on that issue?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I couldn't tell you. I only got here at 12.30.

Q You don't know what is contained in the compromise amendment?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q You don't know what is contained in the so-called compromise amendment?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I am having a conference tonight.

Q Could you tell us who is coming to this conference, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- maybe largely by telephone.

Q In connection with your remarks about the press, sir, would you care to put it in percentage of how many -- what portion of the press ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q Mr. President, 94 or 5%?

Q Thank you.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you going to put it in terms of circulation? That's a nice question. You see how impossible it is to answer your question?

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you, sir.

(Notebook X-PC -- page 48 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #849
Executive Office of the President
October 6, 1942 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

Q Good afternoon, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Hello. Hello.

MR. GODWIN: (to Mr. Early) I have got some information for you, after a while.

MR. EARLY: Is it good?

MR. GODWIN: About half and half.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Godwin) Well, how are you? I haven't seen you for quite a long time. All right?

MR. GODWIN: I am all right. How are you? Where did I see you last?

THE PRESIDENT: All right. (laughter) (then to the newspapermen in the front row): His figure would have suffered.

MR. GODWIN: I lost an inch.

Q All that running.

THE PRESIDENT: All that running around.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought I would tell you that I am talking -- I have talked with Steve (Early) and Elmer (Davis) about going on the air for a rather brief talk sometime -- week or ten days. Oh, there are half a dozen to a dozen different things to talk about, possibly all of them in the same talk. And we haven't got any date yet. And that's as far as it has got.

Q Can you tell us what some of the half dozen or dozen things are?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Steve has a list of requests for subjects to be talked on that -- 30 or 40 different subjects, and I suppose I will

select from them.

Q Could you tell us who made the requests? Are they Governmental requests, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Suggestions, not Governmental requests. Just suggestions -- individuals.

MR. GODWIN: Coming from the public, by any chance?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Do they all come from the public by any chance?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. EARLY: Several from editors, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says some from editors. I don't know whether you would call that general public or not. (laughter)

Q Will there be a sort of survey of the war?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Will there be a sort of survey of the progress of the war?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe so.

Q No?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That isn't news.

Q Will there be a resume of your trip, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I suppose I may devote a paragraph to it, something like that. There isn't enough news left on that. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, on that subject, we understood that in the 12 States where you made inspections, you conferred with the Governors of those States in all except one instance. That one was Dwight (H.) Green of Illinois. Is there any reason, sir, why you did not confer with Governor Green?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I guess probably he was left off. I don't know. You see, the only place I went to in Illinois was the Great Lakes Training ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Great Lakes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Station. Actually I did not set my foot onto the ground of Illinois at all.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, in your -- have you noticed the news, some colloquy and discussion of Wendell Willkie's remarks on the second front?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: You did not know that was going on?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I had read some headlines, but I didn't think it was worth reading the stories.

MR. GODWIN: Would you care to make them worthwhile ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- by saying something?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q (interposing) Did Mr. Willkie speak as your representative?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's purely speculative stories.

Q Could you comment, sir, on the statement which the Russian leader, (Josef) Stalin, made to the Associated Press (Henry C. Cassidy) in Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us a little about the operation of this 25 thousand-dollar provision in the Economic Stabilization Order?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You would have to ask the Treasury Department on that, because I don't understand the details of it myself, and I don't -- I haven't read anybody who had written on it who understood any more than I did. You had better go right to the Treasury Department.

Q Mr. President, do you intend to name a successor soon to Mr. Justice (James F.) Byrnes?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q How soon, Mr. President? In the next few days?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got the faintest idea. To be honest, I haven't thought of it. I have been too busy on other things.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) May be several weeks before I get around to it.

Q What will Director Byrnes' salary be?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the usual -- Oh, what? -- 10 ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) 10 or 12 (thousand dollars per year).

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- 10 or 12.

Q Mr. President, do you have in mind the men you are going to name as his non-governmental members of the Council, that is, farmers ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't -- I haven't seen him since Sunday, and he is going to look into it and talk to me about it, which will be soon.

Q Well, are they -- how are you going to solve the farmers ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know. I haven't talked about it.

Q Will it be farmers and labor and business? Is that the three ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think so, Yes.

Q Mr. President, after his call this morning, the new Chinese Ambassador (Wei Tao-Ming) said that China was fighting more with courage than with weapons. Do you think that events of the next months might change the situation, or they might get more weapons?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Is there any hope of immediate positive developments?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you if there were, obviously. I can merely express a hope.

Q Mr. President, do you care to comment on the return to this country of

Admiral (Wm. H.) Standley (our Ambassador to Russia)?

THE PRESIDENT: On what?

Q The return of Admiral Standley from Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: Has that been announced?

Q It was on the ticker this afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, nothing except he is coming -- coming home to report, and go back there as soon as he has done it. There isn't any particular news in it -- just coming home to report, as they all do. I think we have the -- I think (Laurence A.) Steinhardt (our Ambassador to Turkey) is on his way, or got here, to come home and report and then return.

Q Mr. President, did you talk about New England fuel with Mr. Ickes today?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't think we did. I am sorry. If you had only given me a "chit" to remind me, I would have. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #850
Executive Office of the President
October 9, 1942 -- 10.55 AM., EWT.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I seem to have only two things.

The first -- I think some of you have got both of them -- the first is in relation to Ethiopia. Sometime ago I got a cable from the Emperor of Ethiopia, saying, "My government and people are anxious to assume the obligations of the United Nations Pact. We, the first nation to gain its freedom and independence -- regain its freedom and independence, wish to place the military and economic resources of the country at the disposal of those nations who gladly sacrifice all for liberty and justice."

And after consultation with the other nations, I sent the Emperor a reply yesterday, saying,

"I have received Your Majesty's telegram, and so forth. It is gratifying to accept the adherence of Ethiopia to the Declaration by the United Nations, to welcome as one of the United Nations the first state to regain its territory after temporary occupation by an Axis aggressor. You may be sure that there is deep appreciation for your offer to place at the disposal of the United Nations the military and economic resources of Ethiopia for use in the struggle against the common enemy."

The other one is a Message, for release when read in the Senate or the House. I think the House is not in session today, so it will be read in the Senate.

"To The Congress: We are going to win this war, but winning will

require the best efforts of every individual. Among those already making full contribution are those physically handicapped people who have been rehabilitated. Upwards of a million persons are now waiting for services of the type that only a fully developed rehabilitation program can give them. We know there is nothing wrong with the spirit of these people, but without special assistance they may become a social as well as economic liability. With an adequate program in their behalf they will become a national asset, ready to serve in war industries, agriculture, and other essential occupations.

"In addition, the increasing participation of this nation in the war is resulting in an increase in military casualties, and will result in a greater increase. Because of the tremendous strides in medical science of the past two decades, a much larger proportion of these casualties will be non-fatal and will require rehabilitation service.

"Our present provisions in this field are inadequate to meet this task. They need to be strengthened and standardized through the creation under the Federal Security Administrator of a Rehabilitation Service. Provision should be made not only for persons now handicapped but also for persons disabled while members of the armed forces, and for the increasing number of accident cases that are accompanying the rapid expansion of our war industries. In order to secure the most effective utilization of the capabilities of the physically handicapped, it is important that a single Rehabilitation Service be established for both veterans and civilians.

"Veterans, after receiving the benefits and services provided by the Veterans Administration, would be certified to the Rehabilitation Service for vocational rehabilitation whenever this is indicated. While

the present plan for Federal-State cooperation should be preserved in this field of training, where it has chiefly operated, the Rehabilitation Service should look after the other aspects of this problem, and discharge what is plainly a Federal responsibility -- the provisions of service to all persons whose disability grows out of the conduct of the war.

"Such legislation should permit the establishment of a program adequate to our present needs, and should at the same time provide the experience and personnel which will be able to meet such additional burdens as the war may bring."

Both of them explain themselves.

Q Mr. President, do you have any estimates as to how much money would be involved in the operation of such a program?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q Did you enjoy the show yesterday afternoon, Mr. President? (Irving Berlin's all soldier show "This Is The Army.")

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Grand.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I wish everybody could see it, because I understand they are going to Hollywood when they get through with their present engagements, and get filmed out there so that we can send the show to the picture places all over -- all over the world where our forces are.

Q Will that be soon?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q That will be soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are going there early in November. I suppose

it will take two or three weeks to film the thing, and then get it off, I hope by Christmas-time.

Q Mr. President, I want to ask you a question in regard to the St. Lawrence. I don't want to bring up an old thing, but you made a statement about three weeks ago to the effect that the St. Lawrence Seaway should be postponed. The background on this question is this: The Democratic platform at Brooklyn came out for the Seaway. The Republicans at Saratoga Springs said nothing. Mr. Poletti last week was up in Massena and Watertown, up-state New York, in which he came out for it. Mr. Bennett (Attorney General John J. Bennett, Jr., Democratic Nominee for Governor of New York State in the coming elections in November) spoke Monday night in Watertown, in which he said that his policy would be just the same as it was during the Smith, Roosevelt and Lehman administrations. The Republicans are answering that by saying there is no necessity for the Seaway now, the President has thrown it down. What your friends in Northern New York want to know, sir -- and you have plenty of them, as you know -- is whether or not you have?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the easiest way to answer it -- you have been very frank and fine in giving me the background.

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The background, of course, is the political background ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in the State of New York at the present time. And I have long ceased to think of this subject as a political matter ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- between two parties, or between two regions.

It has seemed perfectly obvious for a great many years -- 20 years at least -- that the nation and the Canadian nation between them have, in the St. Lawrence -- regardless of politics, regardless of what party is in power, regardless of what one community thinks -- a great river, connecting the largest inland bodies of water in all the world with an ocean. Now that's the real background. It goes back -- Oh, more than that, it goes more than 20 years -- it goes 40 years back. And it is a physical situation which, because of certain rapids and waterfalls like the Niagara River, we are unable to use our own commerce, and Canadian Commerce, and world commerce, over what is always the cheapest form of transportation, that is water transportation.

And again, entirely aside from politics, there is no question in the world that if we win this war the time is going to come, after 40 years of a great deal of spilled ink and a great deal -- great many words, there is no question that there will be, some day, access from the Great Lakes to the ocean. It's not just for the State of New York, or a state bordering the Great Lakes. It's a matter for the whole nation. It's bound to come, because man has the scientific mechanical ability to overcome a handicap of nature. At the same time we all know that power in one form or another -- a great many different types of power are probably all needed in the development of the nation. We are getting to the point scientifically where we can transmit power very, very long distances.

Now at both the Niagara Falls, where we harness only a small portion of the power, and in the St. Lawrence river, science will give us, for a reasonable price -- cost -- a very large additional pool of power. And therefore, if -- if the country, including northern New York, and

Buffalo, and New York City, would all think of this in national terms, there is absolutely no question that in time -- I don't say now, because that becomes purely a military question during this war. I doubt very much whether, under the present production circumstances of steel primarily, and manpower, whether we can go ahead at the present time. But that doesn't in any way change the broad aspect of the need of opening the Lakes to the ocean, and of developing the power as soon as we are able to.

Well, I think that's about all there is.

Q That's the position Bennett took in his speech up there.

THE PRESIDENT: I know nothing about the political angle of it whatsoever.

I am talking about the broad national aspect.

Q So it isn't dead then?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q It isn't dead, as far as you are concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, have you decided what you are going to speak about in your radio talk ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- next week?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q It will be next week?

THE PRESIDENT: I told Steve (Early) this morning the date hasn't been -- hasn't been set. I don't know whether he has done anything about it since I told him this morning to go ahead and pick a time.

MR. EARLY: I think you might as well tell them.

THE PRESIDENT: What? You have done it for Monday? What time?

MR. EARLY: Ten o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: Monday, at 10 o'clock.

MR. EARLY: (adding) Eastern War Time.

Q How long?

MR. EARLY: Half an hour.

THE PRESIDENT: Half an hour.

Q Mr. President, now that the conference is accounted for, is there anything you can tell us about the mission of Mr. Myron Taylor to the Vatican?

THE PRESIDENT: He is not back yet.

Q No, he isn't back.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen him. I don't know -- I don't know what happened any more than you know.

Q Mr. President, about several weeks ago you said you did not believe the drafting of 18 and 19 year-olds would be necessary before the first of the year. Has anything happened to change that?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me put it this way: there isn't anything on it today.

Q Mr. President, could you clear up the question to what extent and where Mr. (Wendell) Willkie is your representative?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think that will be used merely politically. Everything is all right, so far as I am concerned. It has been used politically last week, and why make that angle of it the preponderant angle? There are bigger things than that.

MR. GODWIN: May I ---

Q (interposing) Could you elucidate on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I don't know, and I don't think you had better either, because I don't think the country is interested particularly in elucida-

tions of things that are not strictly true.

MR. GODWIN: The reason I am interested in that, Mr. President, is this. I think that everyone who deals with the public, either in speaking or radio, is getting a great many interested letters on the subject, and they are political, I assure you, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- as far as I am concerned. And if we could be as frank as you and Mr. Cottrell were about that thing, it might help, and it might -- I would like to know about it, whether it's a good thing to lay off or not?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what there is to say, except that I have no further information than you have got. I am assuming that Mr. Willkie is carrying out extremely well just what I asked him to do. I think that would cover the whole thing.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about this thing?

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) What?

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #851
Executive Office of the President
October 13, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Where are my glasses?

MR. EARLY: Here they are, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I signed an Executive Order this afternoon terminating the -- one of the agencies of the Government, the Electric Home and Farm Authority, which was set up back in 1935 to finance the distribution, sale and installation of electric and gas appliances. And with the coming of the war, the limited production of such appliances became so obvious that the -- that there was no more financing. And we are terminating the Authority -- the corporation -- and turning the whole thing over to the R.F.C. for liquidation -- administration and liquidation, making no more loans of that kind.

Q Did they make a report? Is that a profit-making organization?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Was there a possibility of profit in that organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Theoretically was to be run at cost.

Q They didn't turn back any profit?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the accounting is.

Q They haven't made their final report?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. It will take some time, I suppose.

Q How many people involved, do you know, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you.

The only other thing is Mr. (Wendell) Willkie gets in, I think,

sometime this evening. And I have sent word to him that I would be delighted to see him at his convenience after he gets here.

Q Is he flying in, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q Does that mean you may see him tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said any time he wants. If it's tonight -- I happen to be free -- it's all right with me. Also tomorrow morning.

Q I was wondering on the "watch" we would make for him if we could meet him when he comes in town ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- to interview him -- the Press?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea.

I don't think I have got anything else. Is there anything else, Steve? I haven't anything.

MR. EARLY: Questions.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Well, --- (laughing)

Q Mr. President, where are you sending Patrick J. Hurley, the Minister to New Zealand, whom we understand is relinquishing that post?

THE PRESIDENT: Pat Hurley?

Q Pat Hurley.

THE PRESIDENT: He is going back there.

Q He is going back there to New Zealand?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, whatever happened to your suggestion about meatless days to save shipping space?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, Pete. I don't know what they have done on that.

Q Mr. President, could you tell where Bill Donovan is now, or what he is doing?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Might be something secret. (laughter) I would hate to lift the veil. (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us whether your conference with Grenville Clark dealt with the over-all manpower problem?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Yes. Talked about it in general terms, that was all.

Q Anything specific that you could tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Oh, one thing -- I think I could mention I got a telephone call from the Speaker of the House (Sam Rayburn), in which he said that the Military Affairs Committee have decided to proceed immediately to take up the lowering of the draft age to 18. And they are having a meeting for that purpose tomorrow morning. And the Speaker wanted to know if the Secretary of War, and the Chief of Staff would appear. So I telephoned to them, and they are going to appear there at nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Q Mr. President, in your fireside chat last night, you projected a possibility of more rigorous legislation in case the voluntary -- the volunteer system ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- of manpower controls was not successful.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

Q (continuing) Do you see any indications in the present system of voluntary controls that might indicate that such legislation would be coming?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. That's the whole point. I would not ask for the compulsory legislation unless the voluntary thing doesn't work, that's all.

Q Have you any time limit on the volunteer system, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q Mr. President, is the volunteer system working satisfactorily today?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Could you elaborate on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. Lots of things. I think I suggested some of them last night that could be done without legislation -- start that at the present time.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, I hate to do it -- laughter) -- is there anything more on the New England fuel oil?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think probably they all talked this morning, Mr. (Congressman John W.) McCormack, (of Massachusetts) Mr. (Joseph E.) Casey (of Massachusetts), and the six Governors. (Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts; Sumner Sewall of Maine; Robert A. Hurley of Connecticut; J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island; Robert O. Blood of New Hampshire; and William H. Wills of Vermont). I guess they have told you all there was.

Q Mr. President, were you anticipating any further questions on the typewriter strategists? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I thought somebody would like to know the -- the -- about the reference to General Robert E. Lee. I got the -- I got the book that it came out of here. (laughter) It is called "Lee The American," by Bradford, I guess. Yes -- Gamaliel Bradford. On page 234 and 235. There's a lot of stuff I didn't quote that I could have last night. One sentence was this -- I think it's rather nice:

(reading): "I have done the best I could in the field, and have not succeeded as I could wish. I am willing to yield my place to these best generals, and I will do my best for the

cause -- editing a newspaper." (laughter)

You ought to get it out and read it.

Q Are there any armchair generals?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Are there any armchair generals in the War Department?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess there are some there who could edit a newspaper.

Q Mr. President, I understand that Mr. (T.V.) Soong is going home. I wondered if there was any message that you were sending?

THE PRESIDENT: I sent him various messages to the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek) this morning.

Q Is there anything you could tell us of the import of those messages?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MISS MAY CRAIG: (aside) Let's go.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #852
Executive Office of the President
October 16, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have something of some importance this morning. I am afraid it's frightfully dull to most of us. And I am very much interested to see how it is handled by everybody. This Message goes up at 12 o'clock to Congress. And I might as well read it for you. It's for release only after it has been read in the Congress. And Steve (Early) will have copies of the whole report for you at the end of the conference.

I say to the Congress: (reading): "In recent months you have demonstrated through the activities of regular and special committees keen interest in reducing non-war expenditures in the Federal Government. Undoubtedly reports by the special committees have helped to stimulate the large volume of letters that I have received from citizens in all walks of life. Some of the letters protest against recent cuts in various appropriations. Other letters urge reduction of Federal expenditure to the amount expended in the fiscal year 1932, and characterize such a reduction as a 'Federal contribution toward helping win the war.'

"I therefore recently requested the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to prepare a report on just what has happened in the field of non-war expenditures since I assumed the Presidency. The report is attached.

"Inasmuch as total war enlists all our resources, you will recog-

nize the very great difficulties of segregating "war" from "non-war" expenditures. Moreover, the text in many places can only hint at the extent to which so-called non-war expenditures are now integrated with the war program.

"Nevertheless, it does show the important reductions that have been made without sacrificing humanitarian considerations. In addition, the report should be especially useful in further legislative and administrative consideration of budget policy."

Well, you can all see the size of this thing. (holding the report up) It's a whole lot of figures. It's a little bit like one of our Budget (Press) Conferences. You will want to, if you are interested, study all of the figures with a good deal of care.

I have had a one-page summary made. It's a 96-page report on the Trends in Non-war Federal Expenditures in the fiscal years 1932--1943. It segregates "war" and "non-war" expenditures, discusses trends in non-war expenditures, Government corporations, credit agencies, and Federal developments in the field of management.

The total estimated 1943 expenditures, excluding Government corporation and credit agencies, are divided into four categories. That is for this current fiscal year.

And by the way, after -- I asked Mr. Wayne Coy to come here in case anybody wants to ask any questions that I don't know about.

For the war, 74 billions. The interest on the Public Debt, a billion, 850 million. Non-war, the Old Pre-1932 services, 2 billion, 225 million. And New services since 1932, 1 billion, 969 million, giving total expenditures of 80 billion.

The total non-war expenditures shown above -- 4 billion, 194 mil-

lion -- this fiscal year, show a cut of 35.6% from the 6 billion, 516 million peak in 1939. It also shows a cut of approximately one billion dollars over last year. The reductions were made despite many expanding war duties of non-war agencies, including such general service functions as budgeting, accounting, and personnel work.

New Services of the Government added since 1932 show 4 New services -- unemployment relief, agricultural adjustment, social security, and railroad retirement. They are each of them, in this report, discussed separately, because they reflect modern economic problems of security. Other New services with small expenditures are included on the table below under Old services. Non-war expenditures of the New services since 1932 were at a peak in 1939, 3 billion, 916 million. Those have been cut in half to 1 billion, 969 million, this year of 1943.

The Old Pre-1932 service. Non-war expenditures of Old services are estimated this year at 2 billion, 225 million, or a cut of 29% from the expenditures of 1932, which were 3 billion, 139 million.

In regard to the Government corporations and credit agencies, they are estimated at expenditures this year of 4 billion -- 4 billion dollars for war.

What's this, a minus 59 billion? How do you spend a minus 59 billion dollars? (laughter)

MR. WAYNE COY: The income exceeded the outgo on the non-war side of the picture.

THE PRESIDENT: 59 ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (interjecting) A profit.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that's a profit. A profit of 59 billion for non-war

purposes.

The report reviews the reorganization plans of recent years to improve management, with examples of reduction in cost.

As they say, take it away! (laughter)

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, is that 74 billion a new figure?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Is that a new figure, Wayne?

MR. WAYNE COY: That represents the later revision of the expenditures for the fiscal year 1943 for war purposes. The revision was made in early October.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as you know, Pete, quite often in the fall of the year, almost always, we make a checkup up to that time, and try to date it in the fall, two or three months before the Annual Budget Message to Congress in January.

MR. P. BRANDT: Well, I thought one time you said you would have over 32% of the national income in the war effort. Now this 74 billion is a very high percentage of the national income. I just wondered whether that was ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The answer to that, Wayne?

MR. WAYNE COY: It's a new figure, and it represents an increase of about 15 to 20 billion dollars over the estimates that were made in the Annual Budget Message in January.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, may we ask Mr. Coy a question? Is that 74 billion actually money spent out -- actual money out of the cash drawer into the hands of ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (interposing) This is an estimate, Earl, for the expenditures for this fiscal year that we are now in. This is the revised estimate for the expenditures for this year.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Is it the actual spending ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (continuing) This is what we estimate will be ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- of money taken out of the Treasury into the hands ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (continuing) This is what we estimate will be expended this year.

THE PRESIDENT: Well now, does that mean ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Spent?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Just a minute now. Does it mean -- I don't know -- contract obligations, or cash out of the Treasury?

MR. WAYNE COY: It is what we will estimate -- cash out of the Treasury.

MR. GODWIN: That's right.

Q Mr. President, could you tell how you classified such a relatively fixed item as the Veterans aid growing out of the last war? Is that a war or non-war ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (interposing) That's a non-war expenditure.

THE PRESIDENT: Non-this-war expenditure. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, has not it been possible to reduce your non-war expenditures because of the employment created by the war?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) I mean, for instance, the C.C.C.?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, very much.

Q (continuing) Is there any estimate of that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. C.C.C., I believe, is now completely gone.

Q (interjecting) W.P.A.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) W.P.A. is now way down.

MR. WAYNE COY: You will find a detailed discussion of it in the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. WAYNE COY: (continuing) --- report.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, do you -- do you know the latest national income figure -- estimate for the same?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't. You would have to ask the Treasury.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, as a result of Mr. (Wendell) Willkie's visit around the world, and report and conversation, do you -- would you anticipate any change in our military strategy?

THE PRESIDENT: I think all that I can tell you is this, that we had an exceedingly successful and a very interesting talk the other day. I cannot disclose military secrets. Very excellent time we had together.

MR. GODWIN: All right.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I am afraid that I can't work up a controversy for anybody.

MR. GODWIN: I didn't mean have a controversy.

THE PRESIDENT: No, but -- I wasn't thinking about you here. I was thinking about somebody else who would ask a question.

MR. GODWIN: Lots of newspapers and others are deluged with this matter. It might be that you would have something to pour a little oil on the waters.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. I thought I did -- a little oil, not gasoline. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, to revert to the Budget Message, could you tell us whether the increase of 14 billion dollars, or whatever it was

in this estimate, is related in any way to Secretary Morgenthau's statement that we should have 6 billion dollars more in taxes raised during the year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. This doesn't go into that question at all. That really is a different -- a different -- a different subject in a way. In other words, this is a purely budgetary thing, ---

Q (interposing) Well, I wondered ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and I have got nothing from the Treasury on the other subject.

Q This no longer I suppose would cause an increase in the need for taxation, and I wondered if that was reflected already in the Treasury's request?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't -- I haven't "boned" up on that subject, so I ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, is this ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- can't say anything about it.

Q Is this a report to the Congress, sir ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- for its information?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's right.

Q Have you asked them to do anything?

THE PRESIDENT: It's for their information.

Q Mr. President, the A.F.L. convention this week passed a resolution asking you to remove Governor (Rexford G.) Tugwell from Puerto Rico. Would you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't heard of it.

Q No change in governor status?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't heard any report, and no change contemplated.

Q Mr. President, do you anticipate any action toward ending voluntary enlistments in the Army and Navy under the new Selective Service legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we had better go into that until we get our bill passed.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about Secretary Morgenthau's trip to England?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing.

Q Mr. President, do you know why the Censorship Office refused to allow your remarks about Willow Run to be sent to England?

THE PRESIDENT: To be sent to England?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: My remarks about Willow Run?

Q Yes. After you had visited it?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't made any remarks then about Willow Run.

Q At your Press Conference.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q At your Press Conference.

THE PRESIDENT: What did I say about Willow Run?

Q That it was not in production yet -- the assembly line.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know why it wasn't sent to England. I suppose everybody in Detroit knew it when I was there.

Q Mr. President, have you as yet decided upon a successor to Justice (James F.) Byrnes?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is there anything new on manpower, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook X-PC - page 115 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #853
Executive Office of the President
October 20, 1942 -- 4.10 P.M.,E.W.T.

MR. GODWIN: (on his way to his seat) Working hard today. He (the President) has got his coat off.

THE PRESIDENT: Can you squeeze through that little space there?

MR. GODWIN: Since sugar rationing, sure. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: After that I should call you "sweetness." (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: That will hold you for a while.

MR. GODWIN: What?

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says that will hold you for a while.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have had a number of letters and telegrams and questions asked, in regard to bringing in some very much needed labor from Mexico to help us in some of the places where there is a great shortage of farm labor to move certain definite crops. I asked the State Department what the status was, and they -- they gave me this memorandum.

The arrangements were made under an agreement with the Mexican government, on August 4, to bring in Mexican agricultural workers. And at the present time there are being brought in under that, 3 thousand Mexican agricultural workers, nearly all in California. I think a few in Arizona.

The State Department says contingents of several hundreds of these workers have been moving across the border, under the supervision of representatives of the Farm Security Administration. That has been going on for the past 3 weeks. These Mexican workers have crossed the border with great enthusiasm, and have marked their trains with banners expressing

their eagerness to serve the Democratic cause by saving harvests vital to the war effort of the United Nations.

The State Department also says that thousands of other Mexican agricultural workers have registered with their own government as being ready to lend a hand in the production of strategic food crops for ourselves and for our allies. The effective work of those already in the harvest fields of California, readiness of many more to lend a helping hand, the generous response of the Mexican government to our call for agricultural manpower, are eloquent witness of the important role that our Mexican allies can and are taking in the war of production, upon which the inevitable success of our military program depends.

And of course ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in the -- I take it that others will be brought in, if they are needed to save crops at the time of harvesting, in States that are nearest to the Mexican border. But if necessary in some cases, like the Montana beet fields, they are already moving in some of the Japanese labor into the Montana beet fields. And it is expected that with the shortage -- Oh, I don't know what the shortage is, I think you will have to leave it off the record, because it's just recollection on my part -- about 8 hundred or a thousand more people will probably make the safety of that gathering of the beets assured.

I was told something I did not know before, and that was that if you once get the beets out of the ground -- it's very hard work, it isn't the kind of work that women or high school children can do -- if you once get the beets out of the ground and pile them at once, it doesn't make any difference if they freeze after that. But you have got to get them out

of the ground before the ground freezes. And now that will be accomplished before the ground freezes.

Q Mr. President, will some of the Mexicans replace the Japanese in the truck gardens in California?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q Where did the Japanese come from who are being shipped to Montana, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Concentration camps.

Q Mr. President, what sort of arrangements are you working out on paying them? Do they get regular wages or not?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they do. I don't know what -- I don't know if it's regular wages, but they get paid. What the scale is, I don't know.

Q The Japs don't pay our boys over there.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Mr. President, is there any estimate of the amount of Mexican labor that would be available?

THE PRESIDENT: We have got 3 thousand under way now, and I suppose several thousand more. And of course, probably -- you have got the winter months coming on, and when there aren't any harvests they go back home, and return in the spring when they are needed.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything of your talk (today) with Mr. (Paul V.) McNutt?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we are just going into the situation. We are expecting a report from this employer -- I don't know what they call it -- management work group. They have been giving it intensified study now for two or three weeks, and that report ought to be in early next week.

Q Do you plan to sign the tax bill today or tomorrow, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got it yet.

Q You will sign it as soon as you get it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I may read it first. (laughter)

Q The excise rates will go into effect November 1st, I understand?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q The excise rates will go into effect November 1st. It has to be signed today or tomorrow.

THE PRESIDENT: I think in order to put them into effect November 1st, instead of December 1st, the bill will have to be signed before tomorrow midnight. And actually -- well, I haven't seen the bill. I have had Budget and Treasury all at work studying it, and explaining it in -- in the English language, as distinguished from parliamentary language, and I hope to get something that any one of us can understand, and then take action on it before tomorrow midnight.

MR. J. WRIGHT: Mr. President, going back to the manpower thing, there has been some discussion of blanket exemptions of dairy farmers, and people on stock farms, and so forth. Is there anything you could tell us about the general manpower picture now, as it applies to this situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Only -- only this, Jim. I would say that -- Oh, let's take, what? -- a simple formula. Suppose there are a hundred people -- men and women combined. There are probably at least 50 places -- different kinds of occupations, including being soldiers, including being farm workers, including turning out airplanes. There are about 50 different categories that we have got to consider -- satisfy -- out of those hundred people. Now any legislation which attempts to say what proportion must under law be carried out is unsound, for two reasons. Things vary in different parts of the country. They even vary in two cities that are 50 miles apart. They

vary in needs between one month and another month. And if we once start to go into the details of the use of manpower by legislative amendments, instead of one amendment, you might get 50 amendments. And if you got 50 amendments covering all the different -- the different occupations that they went into, either the thing would be -- would be contradictory -- contradict itself, or would be -- even if it didn't contradict itself, might apply in October, but not apply in November. And that's -- that's why I don't think that the -- the limiting amendments by groups, occupations, trades, war necessities, or anything else, is perhaps the sound way of approaching it. You can have some over-all objectives. That's all right.

Q I didn't think so much of specific legislation as I wondered if, in your talk with Mr. McNutt, this thing had been canvassed to the point that you knew what you were going to do about the farmers?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, except that we have got to take care of it, that's all. I couldn't give you the details.

Q Mr. President, speaking of that, is there any -- have you in your discussions -- have you seen any way of handling this thing short of a general over-all authority granted to you by Congress, for doing -- for putting them where they should be in this situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we had better wait until we get the report of this board. It's such a tremendous -- it's a matter of tremendous complexity in different parts of the country that I wouldn't like to talk about it until I -- I get the factual report, and the recommendations of the people who have given it certainly more study than anybody else.

And all that McNutt said was that they had reported to him they were getting on extremely well, and hoped to bring in a unanimous report

on which all of the different elements represented were in agreement. Of course if that could be done, that would be good.

Q Mr. President, are you familiar at all with the Tolan Committee's report on manpower, which was made during the day?

THE PRESIDENT: I heard it had been made up. I haven't seen it.

MR. GODWIN: What did you call that, a manpower -- that group of McNutt's, did you say manpower? You had some phrase there that --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. I think it's called the management --

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) I will get the name.

Q Labor Management Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: Labor Management Committee.

MR. GODWIN: I would like to be really elemental about it, Mr. President, as everybody has his own problem, and probably everyone who goes into it will find a farmer who says that he had three farmhands helping him milk the cows, and trundle the milk down the end of the lane, and that two of them left for the factory for three times the wages. Now the old man and the farmhand can't milk the cows. They are dying to get it hauled down there. The sum total of that is the prediction of a milk shortage. And the sum total is the prediction of other shortages all through the country.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what we are trying to avoid.

MR. GODWIN: What?

THE PRESIDENT: That's what we are trying to avoid.

MR. GODWIN: Is that the thing we are leading up to?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it goes a great deal farther than that -- infinitely farther.

Well now, for example, one of the problems that we have probably got to face -- mind you, that all ties in with Government finance --

the purchasing power -- I was out for a drive the other day, and went through a small town not far from the National Capital. And we got held up in traffic two or three times, and -- and I was looking in the store windows. My Lord, three quarters of the store windows were filled with luxury goods, just plain luxury goods that we could do without, all of us. And one reason is that about -- Oh, a year and a -- year and a half ago, maybe, people began stocking up their inventories, all over. Now we have got to face the question on manpower as to whether we are going to allow the production of luxury goods any more. That's a very nice question.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Now, here is just another little angle. In this country cash -- dollar bills, five-dollar bills, nickels, dimes, quarters, fifty-cent pieces -- (there are normally) about 9 billion of them. And today there are about 14 billion, using very rough figures. In other words, an awful lot more cash floating around. Well, I remember I went into the Navy Department in 1913, and every two weeks I got my salary in cash, and I put it in my pocket. I don't know where it went. (laughter) It just went. I had money in my pocket. I couldn't keep an account with myself. And after about six months of this, certain complaints came from back home about paying the grocery bill.

Q (interjecting) I guess you didn't have a newspaper expense account then, Mr. President. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I have made one out several times. (more laughter)

And so I began taking my salary by check and putting it in the bank, and taking perhaps 5 dollars cash for the week and putting it in my pocket -- trying to anyway. (laughter)

Q (aside) Until tomorrow. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now people that have got this extra 5 billion dollars in the country in their pockets, they are going to spend an awful lot of that automatically -- it's just human nature -- for unnecessary things -- luxuries.

Now if they spend it for luxuries, there is going to be a demand for luxuries on the part of the storekeeper, because he can sell them. And making luxuries uses up manpower. So that ties in with the manpower problem. Perhaps an effort should be made to be a little more drastic in preventing the manufacture of luxuries. If you don't see luxuries in the store window it means the store hasn't got any, and you don't buy it because you don't see it, or if you ask for it, they haven't got it.

It's a -- it's one of those perfectly elemental things which enters into all kinds of problems. For instance, buying war bonds. If a fellow takes his salary in cash, the way I did, he is much more likely not to buy war bonds. I don't think that -- I don't think that you can take one aspect of the thing -- I wouldn't know how to write this thing -- I don't think you can take just one aspect of the thing, about the problem of the milk farmers getting his milk down to the end of the lane ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) That (phrase) answers pretty well.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- without considering all the other things.

MR. GODWIN: That is true.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q But you don't forget the farmers?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. Then, of course, you come to another thing. I know one place in this country where a farmer could very easily get two or three high school boys to come down there and carry the milk down the

end of the lane. Also, I know other places in the country, out in the Middle West where the distances are great, where we can't get any high school boys to help them. Every county is different from every other county.

MR. GODWIN: That's right.

Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about a plan to furlough men from the Army to go back into industries where they are needed?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I would say again the rule of common sense. I saw people on this trip, as reported by the Press Associations ---

Q (interposing) Inadequately, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Inadequately, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What about that? (much laughter)

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL (A.P.): (aside) That's a matter of opinion.

MR. MERRIMAN SMITH (U.P.): (aside) Inadequate opinion.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw boys -- I won't say boys, but men 35 to 40 years old in two of these camps. Well, My Lord, they would have been much better off in a munitions factory. I don't -- I think they were too old to march 25 miles a day with heavy equipment. And I imagine that in the Army some of the people who have been inducted already, especially if they can be definitely used in a definite place, some trade they know to be useful in war production, that they will be furloughed back to that kind of work, instead of staying -- trying to stay in a combat division in uniform.

Q Will they continue to draft men of the older group, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Of course there are some fellows, mirabile dictu (wonderful to relate), who are still physically fit at the age

of 40 that might be drafted. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mirabile dictu.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, in connection with that, would you care to comment on the fact that the House of Representatives passed the Selective Service Extension Act within 5 days after you made the public statement on the subject?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I think it's fine. That's easy.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, John Blandford (National Housing Administrator) has started in motion some policies, I think under your directions, which might lead us to the taking over under some form or another of some of these large houses -- with two or three people in them -- of 20 rooms. That leads back to your old "parasites," remember?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: He has actually started ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. GODWIN: He -- were you aware of that? Were you aware of that?

THE PRESIDENT: I read something about it.

MR. GODWIN: He has started that, and I wondered if you were behind it, or knew anything about it, or could you say anything more about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Except that this -- on this same drive yesterday, I did go up a certain rather well known avenue in Washington, D. C., -- (laughter) --

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and I saw house after house that didn't have any curtains in the windows -- evidently wasn't being lived in. Perhaps the "parasites" had left. You see what I mean?

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) He has got something there.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And the question is this: A lot of them have been turned into rooming houses, and they are serving useful purposes as such. But I think there are a lot of houses in Washington that are just plain empty. Now, why shouldn't they be used?

MR. GODWIN: His idea leads up to taking those big houses and making them into rooming houses, or apartment houses, on a pretty good business basis. I wondered if you knew anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't, but I think it's a pious idea, as long as it doesn't cause too much hardship.

Q Mr. President, in 1936 you endorsed Senator (George W.) Norris (Independent of Nebraska) for re-election. He is running again this year in a 3-way race. I wonder if you would care to say anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am sort of caught unprepared on that one, but I tell you what I wish you would do. I have got a recollection that in 1936 I went to a great big, I think it was an organization Democratic Meeting in a -- one of the biggest halls I have ever seen, Aksarben Hall (Coliseum), Omaha, Nebraska.

Q Mr. (Tom) Reynolds' (Chicago Sun) home town, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Who?

Q Mr. Reynolds.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Oh.

And I made a speech at that time, and it's in -- somewhere in my public papers.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) In my files.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And I would be afraid to quote from it, because it's a long time since I saw it. But the fact remains that at that time,

in that speech, I did get a Democratic organization meeting up on its feet cheering for George Norris. And Steve (Early), if you dig that out and have it copied, that part of it -- I don't know what there were -- five or six paragraphs -- let the boys have it. It's public property. It isn't copyrighted. I don't know -- I don't know that I would change one word of what I said at that time. I would say from recollection -- you had better let me see the speech first.

MR. EARLY: You might change it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. F. PASLEY: Mr. President, on Senator Josh Lee's rider to the Selective Service Act on the 18 and 19 year-old age group, a lot of people think that it's probably an entering wedge for perhaps a second 18th Amendment in World War Two by the drys. Would you care to comment?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it. What does it do?

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) It provides ---

MR. F. PASLEY: (interposing) It would bar beer in Army camps and Navy posts, and would establish out-of-bounds areas on hard liquor.

THE PRESIDENT: Hard liquor too?

MR. F. PASLEY: Yes, sir. (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- I think I had better see it before I --- (more laughter interrupting).

MR. GODWIN: (aside) Pretty good.

Q See what, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What? (more laughter)

See Mr. Pasley. (again more laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook X-PC - page 127 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #854
Executive Office of the President
October 23, 1942 -- 11.00 A.M.,E.W.T.

(Mrs. Ernest Hemingway, and Mr. Alexander Woollcott,

were guests at this Press Conference)

Q Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Q (to Mr. Early) Did he (Mr. Woollcott) come for dinner?

MR. EARLY: What?

Q Did he come for dinner?

MR. EARLY: I think he is Mrs. Roosevelt's guest.

Q Did he come for dinner?

MR. EARLY He is staying for dinner -- several of them. (laughter)

Q I hope he doesn't break his leg. (more laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything this morning. That is why I am late. Steve (Early) has been trying to find something. The only other other thing, which is off the record, is that yesterday I was given a very wonderful present for the Hyde Park Library, by Mr. (Augustus E.) Giegengack, the Public Printer. It's a complete file of one of the most famous newspapers that was ever published, called Stars And Stripes -- Paris -- in the old days. And it was one of the -- as I said, it is one of the greatest newspapers of the century. And Mr. Giegengack was one of the editors. Stephen Early was one of the editors.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) (laughing) Oh!

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And Mr. Alexander Woollcott, who is on

the sofa, was another one.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) He was.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: He was.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. (laughter)

Well, there are some things in this paper that probably shouldn't be reprinted, but for people who are old enough to remember the days of the old war, there is some quite interesting material in it. I see Mr. (Fred) Shipman, the Librarian at Hyde Park, is with us today, and it will be a great acquisition for the Library up there. There are very few complete copies.

That's not news, but just an item.

I have a meeting at 11.30, which somebody will probably ask about -- War and Navy Secretaries, Admiral Leahy, General Marshall, Admiral King, Mr. Land -- Admiral (Emory S.) Land, Admiral (Howard L.) Vickery, Donald Nelson, Lewis Douglas, Harry Hopkins -- just to talk over the -- the general situation. As you know, we have these meetings about -- similar meetings about once a week.

One of the things we are going to talk about is in regard to the general materiel production problem -- we talked about it yesterday in Cabinet -- and following out a little bit what I was talking about the other day, a further limitation on the production of non-essentials and luxury or semi-luxury goods, in order to get more steel, in order to get more of everything which would go into essentials -- the real essential military thing.

And there is this one -- one item -- I don't know whether this should be called background or not -- that I think that we should all remember: War changes plans. A year ago the experience of other nations in the previous two years had led to recommendations for the -- for certain necessary munitions. And even in another year those necessities change because of further experience. And it's always an impossible thing to lay down a program, let us say now, for the exact number of things -- various items that will be produced in the year 1944. We may have to make changes.

Well, just the simplest example -- I think I have used it before -- is the -- is the tank program. A year ago we had a very large scheduled production of light tanks -- M-3's. And some of you who were on the trip went to a factory in Detroit that had been turning out a large number of light tanks. Well, the experiences of tank warfare, especially in the Libyan area since last January, led us to change over to an entirely different type of tank, the M-4.

And then came another question, as to whether our original estimate of tanks was not a bit too high, from the point of view of transportation to battle areas. And we are not turning out as many units of tanks today as the program of nearly a year ago called for. On the other hand, we are turning out very much the same weight in tanks -- the same number of pounds of steel -- in a smaller program, as there were pounds of steel in the larger program, because the size of the tank has increased.

And that is why these meetings -- like the one this morning --

are being held from time to time, to modify the details of programs in the light of new experiences. And secondly, to determine from time to time whether we are doing our utmost in the total of production, not just the munitions, but all kinds of other things, so that there isn't any specific thing that will be taken up today. There will probably be 50 things taken up today.

Q Mr. President, in your Message to Congress you asked for 45 thousand tanks in the calendar year 1942. Can you tell us what the new figure is?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you that. Oh, I suppose it would be considered a military secret. It's a small -- I would put it this way, it's just what I said before, it's a smaller number of tanks, but probably the same amount of steel going into them.

Q Mr. President, would that same ratio, between numbers and weight, apply to airplanes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q Fewer airplanes, but ---

THE PRESIDENT (interposing) Fewer actual planes but the --- the same weight of aluminum and steel and other things as in the larger number of units.

Q Is that translated into harder hitting power?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. More gun-power ---

Q (interposing) Can you tell us, sir ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing)--- longer range.

Q Can you tell us, sir, anything about your conversation with Mr. Andrew Jackson Higgins, sir, of Louisiana?

THE PRESIDENT: Who?

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Higgins.

Q I mean he was here earlier in the week.

THE PRESIDENT: No. Well, I can tell you this, that they have directives in the Maritime Commission, and the W.P.B. (War Production Board), to find something for Mr. Higgins's plant to turn out. In other words, in that particular case it's one of the results of my trip. I found that there was a -- an idle plant. Well, if you have got an idle plant that can make things, the next step is to find the best thing that we can put into the plant.

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, a minor point. You referred to light tanks. Both the M-3's and M-4's are classified as mediums.

THE PRESIDENT: I guess you're right. I think you're right about it. The M-4 is a lot bigger than the M-3.

Q Mr. President, could you tell anything about the change-over of fighter planes to these newer type high-altitude fighters?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, that's changing all the time.

Q Is that change-over responsible for the fact that there was a drop in fighter plane production in the late summer?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q No?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There isn't very much change-over.

Then, of course there is another thing which you always have to bear in mind. Well, we will call it -- we will call it "X", so as not to get too close home. An "X" plane is sent to a certain area which has been using the "Y" before. And they

love the "X" plane. They think it's a great deal better than the "Y". At the same time we send the "X" plane to another area of the world, and they say, "Oh, No, No. We much prefer the "Y" type of plane."

Well, they all have to be made to realize that one type doesn't work as the best type all over the world -- different conditions, different slants, different kinds of training. Not just ourselves, but all the other United Nations that are flying planes. Some of them like this type, and some prefer the other type. So we can't be didactic about it and say that type "X" is the best type. Somebody else may prefer the "Y".

Q Mr. President, there are some of the facilities in some of the airplane plants that have been operating at less than full time, of course, because of material shortages. I am wondering whether this re-arrangement is going to provide for a greater emphasis on materials into those airplanes as against other items?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it's entirely a question of materials. It's a question of some of the -- I don't want to create invidious comparisons, but it is true that one or two of our plants are essentially assembly plants. And it's also true that the -- some of the manufacturing plants, which were the makers of parts which were supposed to get these parts down to the assembly plants, are behind. I don't think there is any use in saying which -- which plant or plants are behind. Some of you probably know. There was one plant which I visited -- an assembly plant -- that we expected would be receiving enough parts to be in absolute

full production by this time, which when it gets into full production will probably employ between 40 and 45 thousand people. By Jove, we get there and find they have only got 8 thousand people, because the parts are not coming in from the other places. However, that -- that to me is a matter only of a very few weeks before they will be in full assembly production.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, while we were ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Go ahead, May.

MISS MAY CRAIG: While we were waiting to come in, we were talking about the principle of reprisal shackling of prisoners. Would you discuss that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you had better get the State Department to discuss it, because while I know all the highlights about it, they know all the details.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, have you had ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Of course, I suppose -- I suppose the easiest way of putting it is that theoretically the Geneva Convention is the rule under which the United Nations have been operating.

MR. J. WRIGHT: Mr. President, can you give us some examples of these luxury goods you are talking about -- that you had your eye on?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. Go down F Street ---

MR. J. WRIGHT: (interposing) How? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Go down F Street, Jim. Look in the store windows. Do some window-shopping today. You will see what I

mean. Things that you and I could get on without. I saw in one of these stores the other day -- I saw a baby carriage. Now you and I can do without a baby carriage. (loud laughter)

MR. J. WRIGHT: Maybe we couldn't get along without them, Mr. President. (more laughter)

MISS MAY CRAIG: I think that depends. (again more laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you had any further word on when you will get the report of the Labor Management Committee on manpower?

THE PRESIDENT: Early next week, I was told yesterday. They didn't say the exact day.

Q Mr. President, to return to the Geneva Covenant, is there anything you could add to what you just told us, beyond that one sentence?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't trust myself to do it, because I don't know the details of what has been happening in the last few days.

MISS MAY CRAIG: We didn't mean details, we meant principle.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MISS MAY CRAIG: We didn't mean details, we meant principle.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have -- the only thing I can tell you -- there may be a lot more since then -- is that when the prisoners that were captured by the British in the Dieppe raid were brought ashore, I understand it that some of them had their hands tied during the time that they came out of the boats -- the time between then and the time they went into the concentration camp. Now that, of course, was not a violation of the Geneva Convention, it was merely security in transportation. And that that was followed by a wholesale, apparently a wholesale shackling -- or whatever the word is -- of British and Canadian prisoners, which were not being transported -- who were not

being transported, but were actually there under guard. Now that was a violation of the Geneva Convention. Now what has happened since then, I don't know.

Q Mr. President, that raises the question of whether, in view of what the Japs have been saying on the radio they are doing to certain men alleged to have been left behind from the Doolittle (bombing) raid (on Tokyo), are we going to continue to stick to the Geneva Convention?

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly. They -- they don't conform to the Geneva Convention, if they do what they say.

Q Well, what I mean is, there will be no reprisals on our part?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you had better talk to the State Department. Now I'm getting in too deep.

Q Mr. President, could you clear up the mystery of what kind of "organizers" (Rear Admiral) Emory Land was talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read anything. He was here yesterday. I didn't talk to him about it. We were talking about other things. And, Pete, I don't know. I honestly don't know.

Q (interjecting) (jokingly) Don't call me Pete. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I saw in the newspapers that he said he had been misquoted, and that's all I know.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about your conversation with Mr. Myron Taylor last week?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It was very satisfactory. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook X-PC -- page 149 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #855
Executive Office of the President
October 27, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

Q How do, sir.

VOICE IN THE BACKGROUND: Right along. Right along, gentlemen. Hurry up.

THE PRESIDENT: Somebody with a whip out there?

Q Sounded like it.

VOICE IN THE BACKGROUND: Right along. Right along, please.

Q Saturday night in the movies.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter)

MR. FRED PASLEY: (in the background) Hi, Mr. President.

VOICES: Sh - sh - sh.

MR. EARLY: He (Fred Pasley) did a question on prohibition.

Q Bring it up.

MR. EARLY: What?

Q Bring it up. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think about the only thing I have is a letter that was sent on September 26 to Admiral (Emory S.) Land, and Mr. (Donald) Nelson, and Army and the Navy, the Defense Plant Corporation, Federal Housing Agency, in regard to trying to keep down the cost of war production in relationship to the use of power.

I say, (reading): "In arranging for the electric power supply for war plants or establishments, the cheapest sources of power consistent with war requirements should be used."

In other words, it will save the Government a lot of money.

(continuing reading): "Public and private power supplying agencies

should be advised as far in advance as possible of the prospective location and requirements of plants or establishments on or near their systems, in order that they may assist in solving the power supply problem involved, at the lowest possible cost. In many instances it should be possible to lessen power costs, if provision is made for power to be supplied to the consuming agencies directly from the power generating agency. If the lines of the lowest cost power supplying agency do not connect immediately with the war plants, there is no reason why connecting lines of other companies or agencies should not be utilized, for a reasonable transmission charge. I am asking the Federal Power Commission to cooperate by using its emergency powers, when necessary, to make available transmission and other appropriate services for the effectuation of the policy."

(handing the papers to Mr. Early) Steve will have ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- a copy of that for you as you go out.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Q Mr. President, did you listen to your radio from ten-thirty to eleven last night?

THE PRESIDENT: I did. Several people dining -- we listened to it. (Wendell Willkie's speech to the nation on his 32 thousand-mile trip)

Q Anything you could say about the speech, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I suppose the easiest thing to say is -- I don't know whether it should be off the record or for background -- to paraphrase an old cigarette advertisement: there isn't a controversy in a carload of speeches.

Q Mr. President, did you feel that Mr. Willkie supported all of your ob-

jectives?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said I didn't think that there was a controversy in a carload.

Q Is that off the record, please?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you can put it on the record, if you want. That's all right.

Q Does that mean that you agree with him on ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I told you there wasn't a controversy in a carload.

Q (continuing) --- most of those points?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I will sing it, if you want. (laughter)

Q That would be fine.

Q Go right ahead, sir. (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, Mr. Willkie suggested in his speech that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Is this just another form of the same question?

Q I think not, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

Q (continuing) But in the countries which he visited, some of them had given a local and a limited significance to the Charter signed by you and Mr. (Winston) Churchill because of its name, the Atlantic Charter. I wonder if you could explain ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think that's in a perfectly proper form to answer, because it's a matter of record. If you look back in the record, you will find that -- Oh, I think twice last spring -- and Mr. Hull on one or two occasions, have already made it perfectly clear that we believed that the Atlantic Charter applied to all humanity. I think that's a matter of record.

Q Mr. President, is it understood generally, do you think, that the term "Atlantic Charter" refers to the fact that it was drafted while you were on the Atlantic Ocean?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. Just the locus of the moment.

Q Mr. President, could we put quotation marks around "the Atlantic Charter applies to all humanity"?

THE PRESIDENT: If you will add to it, "as the Secretary of State and I have said several times before." Then you can put quotes around it.

MR. EARLY: Quote the whole?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. In other words, I don't want it to appear that that is a piece of news from me today, because it isn't. It's old stuff.

Q Mr. President, can you explain why the New York Times, through Hanson Baldwin, has been able to give us the most complete account of the battle of Guadalcanal in August?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you had better go and find out. I don't know. I have heard quite a lot of kick about it, and I haven't followed it through. I don't know any more than you do.

Q I am not kicking against the New York Times.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) I am kicking against the Navy and the O.W.I.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You had better find out, because I haven't had time to look into it.

Q Mr. President, can you add anything to what the Secretary of the Navy said this morning about the battle of the Solomons?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. I think -- well, for instance, the headline of the (Washington Evening) Star -- in the Star is, I think, accurate. I don't know that I would use the adjective "decisive" battle, because -- but the rest of it is all right. "Battle Rages in Solomons."

(laughter) Like asking the question which were the decisive battles of the world -- nobody knows. There is a battle raging in the Solomons. And the outcome is not clear, as Secretary Knox says.

Q Thank you, sir.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think that's all right.

Q (continuing) --- I don't know whether the Censor will let this by, but are you going up to Hyde Park to vote, and are you speaking before the election?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I will speak before the election, and I don't know whether the Censorship will let it by, as to whether I am going to vote by letter or go there.

Q If it's by mail they will, Mr. President. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you any comment on the progress of Anglo-American cooperation in the Caribbean?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that -- that talk I had this morning with Mr. (Charles W.) Taussig, and a man named -- (looking at his appointment list) -- Sir George Gater -- G-A-T-E-R -- who is on the -- one of the British commissions. Mr. Taussig is on our commissions.

And we have been discussing, as you know, for about a -- I think over a year -- I started it -- the economic and social future for the people of the West India Islands, which are owned by a good many different nations. A good many of them are British -- we have a number -- the French have some, the Dutch have some, Venezuela has some, Colombia has some. And there may be some other scattered islands that I haven't thought of.

And I felt for a great many years, knowing the territory pretty well, that something ought to be done for their economic and social

future. They have been a liability to the nations to whose sovereignty they belong. And my thoughts have been running along certain lines which ought to be carried out for all of the islands.

I am not talking about Puerto Rico now, because that is a separate problem, like Haiti, San Domingo and Cuba, all of which have very large populations. But outside of those three main islands -- Haiti and San Domingo being on the same island -- outside of that, most of the islands are small, and exceedingly poor.

I think there are certain things which are worth going ahead with the present and past studies, such as, for example, the extension of the franchise, and the putting in of compulsory education, as a starter. And then try to make the islands as a whole self-sustaining. That means a certain investment, but probably a profit in the long run. I don't mean necessarily a financial profit on the investment. I think you will get your investment back, which is all that a government could hope to do.

Just, for example, in simple illustrations, some islands can grow cattle. Others can't. And yet you can't get cattle -- meat -- sheep, chickens, and so forth, from one island to another because there is no refrigeration. In most of these islands it is almost impossible, as some of us know, to get any decent meat, because you can't keep it, because there is no refrigeration. And about the only meat you eat has been killed within a few hours from the time it goes on the dinner table. Other islands are eating things which are not grown on the island. Some islands, for example, buy most of their foodstuffs from long distances, which means that their own money goes to other places, which is not good economy. There are some islands where the production of cattle, for example, is under way, with distinct possibilities for the future. They

buy their shoes in the United States, or in England, or a little while ago in Czechoslovakia, when they could probably make most of their own shoes themselves out of their own hides. A great many items of that kind which have been studied.

And we are working toward an economy and a social system that will be a very marked improvement, and cause those islands to take care of themselves, instead of being looked after from the outside, and help in the general world picture of a better economy.

Now these commissions that have been at work -- some of them have been finished -- the studies are continuing. And I hope that some method will be worked out so that all of the islands, excluding the three big ones, can be brought into an economic and social team for the benefit of all of them.

Now that is about as far as we have got at the present time, but it's one of the very interesting studies which I think we initiated over here, and about two years ago. And it's working toward a definite result.

Q Mr. President, would this economic and social teamwork require a certain amount of political unity?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Certainly not. More self-government in each island.

Q Mr. President, does the plan cover the French islands?

THE PRESIDENT: We hope so. It's a little bit difficult to go ahead with that at the present time, but there is no reason why it shouldn't.

Q Mr. President, do you have any comment, sir, on the one-year training amendment in the 18 and 19 year-old bill? Speaker Rayburn today said that the bill could not be taken up formally by the House until November 9.

THE PRESIDENT: Just because there isn't any House here. Isn't that the reason?

Q I think it's really because of the -- of the one-year training amendment

which prevented them from going right through.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there is a real -- the underlying cause is that there is a disagreement, apparently, between the two Houses, and that one House has no quorum here, and won't have a quorum here. They have all been gone for a week.

Q I was thinking of it, sir, more in regard to the fact that both the Army and Navy urge the very speedy passage of this legislation.

THE PRESIDENT: That what? I didn't get it.

Q That both the Army and Navy ask speedy passage of the bill. I was wondering what the delay would do?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope it will go through as soon as it possibly can.

Q Mr. President, have you anything to say on a food administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Under study.

Q Mr. President, there were reports published this week that you and the State Department had interceded with Donald Nelson to remove a man named Thomas R. Armstrong, who was chief of the Foreign Requirements Liaison Division of the War Production Board. Have you heard anything of that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you had better ask either State Department or Nelson.

Q Mr. President, have you any new word on the Labor Management report on manpower which you said you expected to have early this week?

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early) Have you heard anything this week?

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, there is a report that you have decided on the Supreme Court appointment -- a successor to Mr. Byrnes.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, do you -- can you tell us when you expect to have another meeting such as you had last Friday with Mr. (Frank) Knox (Secretary of the Navy) and Chiefs of Staff?

THE PRESIDENT: I have those all the time. Half the time ---

Q (interposing) Is that a formal thing?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Look, what happens is this. They come in either your way, or if it is more convenient through this room, or they might come to the White House. I have them morning, noon and night with different -- with different memberships, each one depending a good deal on the individual question to be taken up. And of course a good deal of that is done by my Chief of Staff down in the Joint Board -- Joint Staff, or the Combined Staff, and that is just a continuing process. It isn't any news when you happen to see them come in. They are doing it always.

Q Mr. President, there is a lot of talk about a directive centralizing control over oil. Is there anything you could tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: The petroleum administration thing?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is -- that is under study. I haven't got -- I really haven't got any news on it, except it's under study.

Q Can you tell us anything about a directive to make greater use of indirect control over manpower? Is that under study too, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook X-PC - page 163 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #856
Executive Office of the President
October 30, 1942 -- 11.00 A.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Where's Mac? (Marvin H. McIntyre)

MR. WAYNE COY: Mac?

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't I just see Mac?

MR. EARLY: He was in Grace's office (Grace Tully) a moment ago, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: See if you can get him out, Steve.

MR. EARLY: I will get him.

THE PRESIDENT (to Mr. W. H. McReynolds): Tell me if this is right. (handing him a mimeographed sheet) Is that last paragraph true? I think it is, isn't it?

MR. McREYNOLDS: I don't know. I haven't told everybody in the departments ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) How about the Navy Yard?

MR. McREYNOLDS: I don't know. I think they should be told.

THE PRESIDENT: I think they always do.

MR. EARLY: They will be.

MR. McREYNOLDS: I told them to carry out the usual practice.

THE PRESIDENT: That isn't strictly and literally true. I think it's that last paragraph. (Then after conferring with Mr. McIntyre as well as Mr. McReynolds on the subject) Fine. All right.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I have only got one thing. I wish you people would help in carrying it out. It's rather short.

(reading) "I hope very much that the press and the radio will tell ---"

--- Steve (Early) will have copies of this for you afterwards ---

(continuing reading): "I hope very much that the press and the

radio will tell all citizens of the United States that the President hopes they will go to the polls next Tuesday and vote. We are engaged in an all-out war to keep democracy alive. Democracy survives through the courage, fortitude and wisdom of many generations of fighting Americans. And that includes using not only bullets but also ballots.

"I ask that employers all over the country will so arrange the work-day that they and their employees can go to the polls, and that there will be no deductions in pay for reasonable time necessarily taken to vote.

"I have directed that those responsible for the operation of government workshops, shipyards, navy yards, arsenals, ordnance depots, as well as the executive departments and agencies, should give all employees an opportunity to vote, without any loss in wages for time away from work."

And then one other thing, which I did not write down, that I think is worth saying, and that is that when a voter who is working on war work goes to the polls and finds a very long line of people waiting to vote, that the line should be courteous enough to put him up at the front so that he won't waste any time.

Q Mr. President, how are you going to vote in the -- your own Congressional District? You have always spoken of that?

THE PRESIDENT: I am going to vote either by absentee ballot or in person --- (laughter) -- if you must know.

Q How are you going to vote? What is your particular candidate?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Oh, I never discuss my secret ballot. I never have.

Q Would it be a fair inference that you are <u>not</u> going to vote for Hamilton Fish?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think that would be. (laughter)

Q (in the background) Can we quote that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's not new. I think I have said so before.

Q Mr. President, on two occasions, the most recent one this morning, British sources have carried stories on American troops in Liberia. This morning there was a story that our troops were there, that negotiations with the Liberian government had been completed, and that there are white and negro units stationed there. Now, so far, the American government has said nothing about our troops there, and I wondered if there was anything you could give us, such as an official confirmation that they are there?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I wouldn't dare do it without consultation with the military authorities. In other words, that is a story that relates to troop movements. And I should think that we should first find out whether the military people -- what their view of publicity about an operational move is, before the President says anything. And I haven't -- I haven't asked them what their view is. It's an operational movement of troops -- if so -- if it exists. Be very careful to take the whole of the sentence and not half the sentence. And if there is such a thing it's a military move, and therefore it is -- a decision or a statement about this should rest with the military authorities. I think that is quite obvious.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us what Pat Hurley (our Minister to New Zealand) is doing now?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I can say this: that he is on his way back to New Zealand. (laughter)

Q Will it take him some time to get back?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that he is on his way back to New Zealand.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the published reports that

Mr. Ed Flynn (Chairman, National Democratic Committee) may become Ambassador to Mexico after the elections?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it. Didn't know there was such a report.

Q Mr. President, can you give us any news on the Solomons this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: On the what?

Q On the Solomons, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think there's anything -- anything that wouldn't help the enemy by disclosure.

Q Mr. President, do you have any comment on the Senate proposal for an investigation of Puerto Rico?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it. What was that? (no answer from the questioner) What was it about Puerto Rico?

Q The proposal by Senator (Dennis) Chavez (of New Mexico) for Senators to go to Puerto Rico and make a survey of conditions?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't heard anything about it. Never heard of it.

Q Mr. President, there were reports published this morning that (Lieutenant) General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower is being called home for some consultation. Is that correct, so far as you know?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there again, you see, you put me in an awful hole -- an awful hole. The -- these movements of commanding officers, of course, anywhere -- anywhere in the world ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) The newspapers also said that the War Department said they knew nothing about those reports.

THE PRESIDENT: As I was just saying -- well, aside from that, I don't think it's an awful helpful thing to print things about movements of American officers. I really honestly don't.

Q Mr. President, I have been asked to ask you whether the White House has requested an investigation into the Ohio old age pension division?

The State Auditor, Mr. Ferguson, made that statement yesterday, that the White House had ordered such an investigation.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can say that the White House never heard of it. (laughter) Not the kind of a thing, obviously -- I don't know what they mean by the White House. The White House wouldn't originate a thing like that.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can do about clarifying this Higgins plane deal? Apparently it is still in the oral stage -- it isn't on paper -- but he is expecting to get an order for 12 hundred (cargo) planes.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I can only repeat what I said the other day. You know after we got back from that trip, I did say to W.P.B. (War Production Board), and talked with the Army and the Navy and the Maritime Commission, that I understood there was a 10 million plant --- a 10 million-dollar plant down there that wasn't -- wasn't working, and to go ahead and find something that could be built in that 10 million-dollar plant. Now what the status is at the present time, I don't know.

Q Were you aware, sir, that the Maritime Commission has been dismantling that plant, and has apparently been speeding up the dismantling procedure?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is not quite the way I would put it. The Maritime Commission, as I understand it, did own quite a lot of very heavy plate and shape -- ship plate and shape machines -- machine tools down there that did not belong to the plant, that belonged to the Maritime Commission. And when the order for the freighters was canceled last -- whatever the date was, they took some of those tools and put them where they would be immediately available. And I don't think they are tools

that are used in making air transports.

Q Mr. President, it has been generally reported that you have decided that a move to have a National Service Act is not necessary now? Is that true?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is not true -- (including) all the headlines that carried it that way. It is still in the study stage. That is the only thing, literally and truthfully, that you can say. We don't know yet.

Q Sometime ago, sir, you said that you anticipated receiving a report from the Labor Management Policy Committee early this week.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that it's very nearly ready, I heard yesterday afternoon. And it's very nearly ready. I might get it even this afternoon or tomorrow.

Q There have been reports that there is dissension between the Committee itself and Mr. (Paul V.) McNutt (War Manpower Commission). Have you heard any such report?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't heard a peep about it. Don't know. No idea.

Q When do you think, sir, that we might anticipate some positive action from the White House toward a National Service Act, or some such type of legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. In other words, nothing has been abandoned, nothing has been decided on.

Q Mr. (Philip) Murray (C.I.O. president) and Mr. (William) Green (A.F.L. president) yesterday were under the impression that nothing would develop, or at least as long as that would be necessary to make further explorations, especially of the supply of women for Government labor war industries.

THE PRESIDENT: Again I wouldn't be -- put it quite that way. We did talk about the -- the general reservoir -- (loud laughter, as Wendell Willkie used this word a great deal in his speech last Monday night,

the 26th) -- to use Mr. Willkie's words -- (more laughter) -- different kind -- the general reservoir -- (again more laughter) -- of available labor in this country, male and female.

And the general line of talk yesterday was devoted to one phase of that reservoir. We felt that on -- on men's labor, considering the fact that we have close to 6 million people in uniform -- Army and Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard -- and that so many men have gone to work in factories, that the men's end of it does not leave us very many men for the -- to fill up the needs, during the coming year, of 4 or 5 million additional workers.

Mind you, there isn't any at this moment. There are mighty few places in this country which are shut down because of lack of labor. Don't forget that. In other words, we are looking ahead for needs during 1943.

Now on the other hand, in our discussions yesterday, it was pretty well agreed that the largest untapped portion of available labor is among the women. And you who were with me on the trip saw pretty good evidence of the fact that women are increasingly being used for all kinds of war work, or to take the places of men who have gone into war work.

And we did discuss, not -- make this clear in the first instance -- not the drafting of women into these places where we need workers -- no compulsory draft -- but we did discuss trying to find out, through a registration of women, where they are. Now that is something that there is very little known about. In other words, ask women, or make -- make the actual registration compulsory, such as it was in the case of the men, all women between 18 and 65 to register.

Now that does not mean that they would be called to go here, there

and the other place by compulsion, but we don't know today where that available supply of women exists, what they are specially fitted for, and what they want to do. And we believed -- I (have) believed for a long time that there are hundreds of thousands of women in this country who would like to help more greatly than they are doing now, and who don't know how to do it. They don't know where they are wanted. They don't know what opportunities outside of their own home are open to them. We don't know how many of them would be willing to work within 15 or 20 miles of their own home. We don't know how many of them would be willing to go further away to work. And the most practical way, we feel, is some method of registration where we would get the information. We don't know how many there are who want to work.

And that was one of the chief topics we discussed yesterday.

Q Mr. President, would you need legislation for such a registration ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes,yes.

Q (continuing) --- to make it compulsory?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q That would entail a pretty severe time lag before you actually would get the legislation and could put the registration into effect? Would it probably be ready the end of this year?

THE PRESIDENT: End of this year, Yes.

Q (interposing) And then this registration ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But, as I said before, there are -- there is-- there are very few instances in this country anywhere, where things are closed down for lack of workers. We are all right at the present moment. I am not saying that it will be all right without doing something in a few months. That is a very different thing. But at the present moment we are all right.

Q The registration then implies that there will be no Administration request for a general Service Act, at least until then?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I wouldn't make any implication. That is just one phase of the thing, that's all.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The other is a different subject. Let's stick to the one subject.

Q Mr. President, have you decided ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q (continuing) --- on the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q (continuing) --- on the ---

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. (laughter)

Q (continuing) --- registration ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. I was merely telling you what we talked about.

Q Mr. President, you made the same proposal at least 6 or 8 months ago, and then you got a report, I think from Secretary Perkins or McNutt, or someone. You said that it was not necessary, at that time. You recall that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. War and Navy also said so. Also W.P.B., at that time.

Q At that time. Is it coming up again?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, why don't you get some other word than "manpower," when you mean women? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you that job for next Tuesday. Come in and give me the word.

MISS MAY CRAIG: You always have to explain.

THE PRESIDENT: I agree with you heartily. Bring it in. (more laughter)

MISS MAY CRAIG: I will tell you now.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MISS MAY CRAIG: I can tell you now.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MISS MAY CRAIG: Call them either "workers," or "labor forces," or "labor power"; and that means both. When you want to specify -- specify.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's possible.

MISS MAY CRAIG: I have devoted some thought to that.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (much laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #857
Executive Office of the President
November 6, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) says his shelves are bare.

I think the only thing I have got is that I have been working yesterday and this morning with Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, the British Minister of Production -- who I think will be here probably two or three weeks -- in going over jointly the British and American production program for 1943. We make periodical checkups on the revision of production -- joint production programs, and this is preliminary to the -- I suppose the estimates over there and the estimates here, for the -- the year 1943 -- calendar year -- in regard to all kinds of munitions and supplies for all of the United Nations. So that by the time we get through with these conferences we will -- we will have a pretty good picture of the needs for next year. And of course, as I have said before, the experience in the war -- the conduct of the war requires a constant revision of plans. There are all kinds of munitions.

And outside of that I think the only thing I can say is that all of us -- all of the United Nations have been very much heartened by what looks to be a victory of major importance in the Egyptian-Libyan area. There isn't much news from there that hasn't been given out in the -- in the communiques, but things seem to be going extremely well.

Outside of that, I don't think there is a thing.

Q Mr. President, does Mr. Lyttelton speak for all the other United Nations?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Does Mr. Lyttelton speak for all the other United Nations in these production

and allocation discussions?

THE PRESIDENT: Does he speak for all the other nations? What do you mean?

Q You spoke of this being for all of the United Nations.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the production program is for all the United Nations.

He doesn't speak for all the United Nations. They speak for themselves.

But we are the principal producing agencies.

Q Mr. President, how are their wishes ascertained in this ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q How are the wishes of the other United Nations ascertained in these periodic revisions for strategical purposes?

THE PRESIDENT: Constant daily contacts -- every one of them.

Q With the Ambassadors here, or with the supply missions here?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it depends on the individual country. There are various ways. You can be quite sure that we get the requests.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you spoke of (Lieut.) General (Bernard Law) Montgomery's victory over there (in Egypt). And it occurs to me that if you take the Eighth Army -- the British Eighth Army as a level of perfection -- achievement in training -- I think the American people might be enlightened if we knew whether we had any Army forces in training that could equal that?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the easiest way of putting it is this: We don't know. Nobody knows, until we have had troops in action on a major scale. You can't tell how a thoroughly trained division or army will succeed until you have had them in action.

Q Mr. President, do you know to what extent the Montgomery army was equipped from the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, except I would say to a minor degree. In other

words, a great deal less than half. I couldn't give you the exact percentage.

Q Would that be true in tanks?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Would that be true in tanks?

THE PRESIDENT: It would be true in -- in tanks, to a certain extent. It might be true in motorized equipment, to a certain extent, but the -- the overwhelming part of their equipment is British equipment.

Q (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Of course, Britain has some of our planes and some of our tanks, but we mustn't get the idea that they were equipped with American equipment. It makes a nice headline, but unfortunately it isn't true.

Q Mr. President, do you consider any of our activities on Guadalcanal (in the Solomons) of major scale?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- No, I wouldn't, because -- because the whole thing down there is on -- on a limited scale, both on the Japanese side and our side, because of the same old thing, the problem of transporting men and equipment to that very limited area.

Q Mr. President, will those actions just continue -- be continued then, and where there are continued engagements will they be continued on a limited scale indefinitely, or would it eventually grow to major scale?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think that is sort of a hypothetical question. It's awfully hard to answer. Can't tell.

Q Mr. President, is the importance of it necessarily to be gauged by the extent of it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. The importance might be much greater than the extent.

On the other hand, it might not be. You remember, I think it was the other day (October 27), the headline -- headline in the (Washington Evening) Star using the word "decisive." Now that's an awfully sloppy term to use. It might be, and it might not.

As I -- I think you had better put this off the record. If you look at a map of the South Pacific, you will see that the Japanese have advanced island by island all the way south from the northern end of the Mandated Islands. We attempted to -- at a time last -- beginning of August -- to prevent that island by island advance from going any further south. So far we have succeeded. If we keep on succeeding, it's fine -- in preventing any further southward advance; because if we keep on succeeding, we will have the possibility of starting a northward advance on our part.

That will take a long, long time, because as I think I have told you before, it takes months to get a ship with men or munitions from the United States down there and back again. On the other hand, the Japanese line is also long. It takes weeks for them to get a ship from Japan down there and back again.

Now, on the other hand, in case -- in words of one syllable, and don't misconstrue them -- in case the Japanese were to isolate Guadalcanal -- we hope they won't -- and take it, it would mean that they had advanced one more island. That is not a decisive victory, because it merely means that the scene of action has been transferred to the next group of islands, their line thereby becoming a little bit longer, and ours remaining constant -- it wouldn't be any longer. Therefore, it's -- it's an action of importance, but not decisive. You can't tell.

Q I was thinking it might prove decisive if one side or the other lost one

particular airplane carrier at a particular time?

THE PRESIDENT: Not necessarily, from the ---

Q (interjecting) It might.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- from the reading -- from the reading of the past six or eight months. One ship isn't controlling, if they lost -- they lost the island because of an aircraft carrier. That wouldn't be decisive. It might change the scene of action a little bit further south.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, I really honestly -- this is still off the record -- I honestly think that we all ought to be a bit careful and tend toward understatement rather than overstatement on all operations of that kind.

On the other hand, the -- I think the Egyptian fighting of the last two weeks could be called of major importance. I don't know that I would call even that decisive, in the light of past history.

Remember then, this is the third time -- this is all off the record -- the third time that something has happened there. The first time was when they smashed up the Italians, and they went on through and got pretty well past Tobruk. And then the Germans went in to help the Italians, and they pushed the British back as far as Tobruk. And then came the second British push, and it went clear through to Bengasi right across the whole hump of Libya. And having taken Bengasi, well we all thought it was a -- not only a major victory but a decisive victory. Well, it was a major victory, but they ran too fast. They got way beyond their line of supplies. And suddenly (German Field Marshal Erwin) Rommel struck them again and drove them back to Tobruk. That is why it wasn't decisive.

Then the -- the third thing that happened was that they started an offensive, roughly from the Tobruk line south, and they didn't get very far. And suddenly, without any warning, Rommel caught them off base and drove them clear back to the El Alamein line. And a lot of people -- probably the Germans and the Italians -- said, "This is the decisive victory." Well, it was a major victory, but it wasn't decisive, because the British held at the El Alamein line.

Now this is really the fourth time they have moved out of the line, and apparently they have inflicted very heavy losses on Rommel's army. And we hope this time it will be not only a major victory but a decisive one, through the destruction of the enemy's forces. And the next -- we hope in the next week we will get as good news about the German-Italian retreat as we have been getting in the last two or three days.

MR. GODWIN: Do you care, sir, to say anything about that amendment which is pending between House and Senate on compulsory one year's training for teen-age boys?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, because nobody has come back yet. I am going to see them -- I think it is either Monday morning or Tuesday morning; but nobody -- nobody has come back.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, how do you account for Tuesday's election results?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think, Pete, all I can say on it is this, that I had a very pleasant surprise. I -- Tuesday morning I went up to Hyde Park to vote, and when I got there I was perfectly delighted to find that the polling place was open. (loud laughter) I'll -- I leave the explanation of that remark to the press. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Do you think they expected to be closed?

THE PRESIDENT: Evidently you don't read certain papers. (again more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I am asking you, sir.

Q Mr. President, did you make your usual pre-election forecast and seal it up?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I didn't. I knew very little about this election.

Q Mr. President, do you think the results would have been the same if you had taken part in the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Mr. President, will it make any difference in your attitude toward Congress? I mean, you have got a very close majority there, and ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Why should it?

Q Well, I mean the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I assume -- I assume that the Congress of the United States is in favor of winning this war, just like the President is.

Q No. I mean in the past your conferences have been with the Democratic leaders. Will the Republican leaders be ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, No. Oh, No. My conferences in the past have been with the Republican leaders too.

Q Not publicized.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q They were unpublicized.

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe. (laughter) That proves nothing.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us, as yet, about your plans for Armistice Day, whether you plan to make a speech?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I am going to make a speech, if I can; if I get time to write it. It will be very short. Probably not more than -- what? -- 5 minutes, something like that.

Q Mr. President, the -- we understand that the manpower report was transmitted

to you. Have you completed your review and study of that report?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read it, ---

Q (interjecting) You have?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but you will have to leave that off the record.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Have or have not?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I am going to read it ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) There is some misunderstanding. Have you read it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't read it. Only don't put it on the record. I have got it in my basket. Look at the basket! (stacked high with papers) I will probably get at it this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Q How soon might we anticipate some action?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea. I wouldn't even guess at it. And this has got to be off the record, because it's just -- just for -- for information or background -- use it as background.

On this whole manpower thing, anybody that studies it and thinks they can, after studying it for a week -- thinks that they can come to an intelligent conclusion, they ought to be in St. Elizabeth's. You can't do it. You can't spend a day, or a week, in studying it and form a definite, detailed plan. And that is why it has taken quite a lot of time.

But with that goes this other fact, that -- that this whole manpower thing, with the exception of one or two portions of farm labor, is not at this time an emergency matter. As an example, in farming, all of the -- practically all of the crops are in, with the exception of one or two very small areas. And the -- the problem of farm labor will be -- is therefore not an emergency matter, except in dairying. There will be one or two other minor things. Dairying is difficult, because dairying goes on right through the winter, as well as the crop season. Everybody knows

that.

And outside of that we are not having any emergency problem affecting manpower in, for example, our factories, transportation, and similar things. We are going to have it, because as I said the other day, we have probably got to put into industry this coming year 4 to -- 4 or 5 million people. But as I also said the other day, I don't know of any factory that is shut down because of lack of labor today. But you have got to add the word "today." In other words, something has got to be done, but it isn't a matter of immediate emergency in the conduct of the war. It's going to be -- it's going to be a serious thing unless we handle it soon. And that is why I can't give you any date. Neither am I able to formulate at this time any definite plan -- there have been various plans submitted -- because it takes -- it's an awfully difficult problem.

Q Doesn't it have some emergency feature in the Southwest and on the Pacific Coast?

THE PRESIDENT: In the Southwest they have got the problem, I think, of long leaf -- long staple cotton. But if you will -- if you will take that particular area, you will find it practically -- it's down in the Imperial Valley, and one or two places -- little places in Arizona, and compare that to the total agricultural output or labor of the entire country, it's one of those things that falls within the 1 or 2 or even 5 percent of little problems. You have got to think of it in the "large." It's a detail. They are having a problem about what to pay the Mexicans who have come in. And frankly I don't know. I think -- I think the cotton will get picked. That is the principal thing. I think it will get picked.

Q Can we have that on the record, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, you can put that on the record.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You know -- what was it? -- last week or the week before, we had something about Montana beets. Well, I think all those beets are going to be taken out of the ground before the ground freezes.

Q Mr. President, one other question that has been rather generally reported, that something is about to be done in centralization and consolidation of food agencies under a food director, or food administrator. Have you arrived at the point yet where ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- where you can act on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q You have recommendations on the matter?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, lots -- lots. Nobody is starving. Undoubtedly people will have to go without various luxuries.

I see my friend the little Mayor (Fiorello LaGuardia of New York City) -- (laughter) -- is -- has stirred up a hornet's next in respect to how to prepare coffee. We will have a lot of grave issues like that during the coming year. (more laughter) What I am a little afraid of is that somebody will raise the issue that was paramount in this country a few years ago, as to whether one should "crumble" or "dunk" (the doughnut). (continued laughter) Now those are very important things in our national life. And it's part of the grand sense of humor of the American people,---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and it's all to the good.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, it's probably useless to ask you on this matter, but -- (much laughter) -- does the 40-hour week have anything to do with this manpower? (Senator W. Lee) O'Daniel (Democrat of Texas) has intro-

duced a bill to repeal the 40-hour week, saying that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) We haven't got a 40-hour week. We haven't got a 40-hour week. Most of our important production of war materials is working about -- well, most of them in the very important production I think are working 48 hours.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And I think that the average of the important production is around -- between 46 and 47 hours a week.

MR. GODWIN: He (O'Daniels) wants to work 6 days a week 12 hours a day, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Does he? Who?

MR. GODWIN: O'Daniels.

Q (aside) Let him try it.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, really, on that working 6 days a week and 12 hours a day, there is one thing which I didn't mention about this last trip, and that was that quite a number of people in different plants told me that they have the problem -- like any big plant that employs 40 or 50 or 60 thousand people -- of a certain portion -- a certain percentage of the workers not turning up in the morning. And in two or three of these plants when those workers come in the next day, they are asked voluntarily to sign a little card, saying why they didn't turn up the previous day.

And it's interesting that where workers have been working overtime, up in some cases to 54 -- 56 hours a week -- total -- that the excuse -- the excuses -- the reasons given for not turning up on these cards are that they were too tired.

Now we all know -- I think I have mentioned this before -- the very careful studies that have been made of production in Germany; and that after you work anybody over a certain definite period, depending a little

on the work that is done, you don't get, after the first few weeks or the first few months, you don't get any more production with a very, very long week -- with a lot of overtime -- than you do in a shorter week. Now that -- that -- people ought to recognize it. But it is a fact that has been proved in England, over here, and in Germany.

Right along that line we have -- we have got reports last spring, from Germany, that they were very greatly increasing the weekly hours of work in certain munitions plants that they had to have the materials from -- the munitions; and that they started it, this great increase in the hours per week, sometime in the spring. And for about 2 months the total production showed a great increase. At the end of two months it started to slide down hill, until the time came in Germany when, on a greatly increased work week -- working as high as 70 or 80 hours a week -- after the people had got thoroughly tired -- exhausted -- the output was not so great as when they had been working 48 hours a week. Now those reports obtained by the Intelligence Services have come in in such volume that they look to be true, that German production in the last few months has fallen off, in spite of the much longer work week.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, can you tell me, or do you know whether in future food rationing you will have to declare your stock in hand, before you get your book?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea.

MISS MAY CRAIG: We did that on sugar and it was salutary, but it didn't last over into coffee.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook XI-PC - page 1 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL AND OFF THE RECORD
Press Conference #858
Executive Office of the President
November 6, 1942 -- (approx.) 11.20 AM, E.W.T.

(This Press Conference was held especially for editors of business magazines and papers. All present were introduced individually to the President by Paul Wooton of The White House Correspondents' Association, the President remarking on Mr. Wooton's ability to remember nearly all the names of the 40 or so he introduced)

THE PRESIDENT: It's good to see you all.

MR. PAUL WOOTON: We have got all the business editors here.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, we are still doing business! (laughter)

MR. PAUL WOOTON: Still doing business.

I just wanted to mention to you, Mr. President, that this group is manning some very important channels of communication. They reach these channels of communication in every industry, every plant, and every business establishment in the country; and few realize that the influence of their papers extends beyond their 4 million readers. From producers the influence of these publications rather fans out to wholesalers and retailers, and other channels, to the ultimate consumer. And these papers, I am sure, have done a lot to intensify the battle of production. They have made the work of the Price Administration easier. They have helped put rationing on a workable basis, and they have helped get in the scrap, because industry, as you know, is one of the largest sources of scrap.

Their greatest contribution, however, has been in keeping producers advised as to improved practices. All of the shortcuts that are being developed are promptly passed on to industry. And perhaps we can help

with some problem with which you may be wrestling at this time.

But there are just a couple of questions that possibly you want to comment on, because they provide timely material for editorials, if you want to tell them what you visualize in the economic stabilization plan; and since we are here a good deal about the manpower problem today. And we would like to ask you as to the power to control manpower, if it does not exist already, or do we have to wait and go through the throes of political debates on that subject?

We throw those out to you to comment on, if you will. Or if you don't want to, that is all right; but they have to write a lot of editorials.

THE PRESIDENT: Were you people in here at the Press Conference?

MR. PAUL WOOTON: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I wish you had been, because we touched on some things that I would like to -- if you weren't here, I will repeat a bit.

On this question of manpower, which we are all thinking about a lot, I said to the gang -- as we call them -- I said don't, in this war, don't over-emphasize the importance of things; try to get it on the basis of understatement instead of overstatement. Now that is absolutely true. And I illustrated it by using this British victory in Egypt. I said, "I read a headline the other day which talked about a decisive victory." I said, "Leave out the word 'decisive' -- that's overstatement." Three separate times before the British have had the Germans and the Italians on the run, and three separate times before, after they had got them on the run, they turned around and the British got on the run. Therefore, it's a grand victory, but nobody knows yet whether it's a decisive victory. Play it up as a victory, but don't claim that it is the winning of the war.

Now the same thing about manpower. I told them I didn't know. What

are we going to do about manpower? The -- I said something that some of you editors write -- it isn't aimed at you, it's aimed at everybody -- the general idea that the manpower problem in this country -- man and womanpower -- is a great emergency at the present time.

Now I don't know any plant that is shut down today because of lack of manpower. I am talking about today. Now we are going to have a manpower problem -- womanpower problem -- in this country during the course of 1943. We all know that. But today it isn't one of those great crises that we have got to meet -- bang! -- like when all the banks closed. We have got enough man and womanpower today. We have got to get 4 or 5 million people into industry during the coming year. In addition to that, we probably have got to take a couple of million more men into the Army and Navy. Well, that means 6 or 7 million more people. And then I said to them, not -- don't overstate; that's the first thing. And at the same time you can point out that there are a few emergencies, and there are going to be more, probably, but at the present time there are very few emergencies.

There is an emergency in the dairy industry -- now that is true -- because of the lack of help, especially in the dairy regions, in the turning out of dairy production. Dairy farmers are finding it very difficult to keep as many cows during this coming year. And you have to think ahead with cows, because it takes some time to produce a milking cow. (laughter) We all know that -- a couple of years. And outside of that, Agriculture even is not in very -- in a very bad way.

And somebody said at the Press Conference, "What about Southern California?" Well, that's not a problem of manpower. It's a problem of getting the owners of -- the producers of long staple cotton, which is a very small industry in this country compared to other industries --

has nothing to do with ordinary cotton -- it's a specialty; and they are having some kind of a wage row down there, as to what they are going to pay Mexican labor that has been brought across the border. There is plenty of it. It's entirely a wage problem between the people of Imperial Valley and a few places in Arizona, and these Mexican laborers who are coming in under an agreement with Mexico.

Then, using that as an illustration, I have come to the conclusion -- you read a big headline about it. In other words, it's making too many old -- I have talked to you all about it before -- it's making the 5 percent of trouble look like 95 percent of trouble. You all understand that. We all have 5 percent of trouble. We have it in the -- in every profession in the world. We have 5 percent -- I happen to be a lawyer -- of lawyers who are crooked as Hell. (laughter) And almost -- in almost every walk of life you have a percentage of people who will rock the boat, or steal, or do something which is contrary to the public interest; but it doesn't mean that 95% are.

Now I -- I have been studying this manpower thing for literally months, and I don't know the answer. Now that is a terrible thing to say. I couldn't write an editorial on it, although I probably have studied it as much as anybody in this country. Because we are all after the same objective, which is to have enough manpower and womanpower. Now how to put it all together, whether we should have legislation on it, I don't yet know; and I am sure none of you know. You have bright ideas. Oh, I have had 8 or 10 very bright ideas in the past week, but I haven't accepted any of my own bright ideas. (laughter) Now that -- that -- that is perfectly true. It's a difficult problem.

And I have been working along -- I think you can use this -- I have

been working a little bit along this line. We have got to have young, fit men in the Army. And it is going to hurt certain industries. In one of the plants I was at, I saw a young fellow on a machine who was the foreman over about 25 or 30 machines. Well, he was damn good; he was a natural-born leader. That is why he had been made a foreman. Well, he was about 28 years old, and had the qualities of leadership. And the question was, of course, whether he ought to -- he hadn't married, with no dependents -- whether he ought to be in the Army, if you can find somebody to take his place.

Now the problem is for a draft board. Remember that these draft boards are all unpaid. They are doing a very, very grand job -- patriotic duty. They have always got it in the front of their heads, "We have got to have the best army in the world."

Now there is a fellow who, if he were in the Army, would get to be a top sergeant in a few months. He has got the qualities of leadership; he is good. He really would be better in that job than as a foreman over 25 or 30 machines, if we can find a replacement for him. Now that means cooperation with the company that is running that plant, saying to them, "Now there's a fellow who obviously ought to be in the Army. Will you scratch around and try to find somebody -- train somebody to take his place?" It comes down so much to the individual case that you can't generalize on it.

Now I went -- on this same trip -- I went to a camp where they had a special little group of 800 men. Well, I took a look at them -- they were all lined up -- and I was just looking at figures. Suppose they lined you people up, or me! -- (laughter) -- we would look like Hell! -- (more laughter) -- put <u>us</u> in uniform. All right. Now it's that type called a "postural defect," which is a polite term for a big belly.

(more laughter)

And then there was a group of fellows in there who were what I would call "adenoid" cases. In other words -- (and here the President mumbled his words to demonstrate, amid much laughter) -- their mouths opening. And you can cure it sometimes by yelling at a fellow to keep his mouth shut and hold his head back. Sometimes you have to remove his adenoids. (laughter)

Then there were a lot of cases -- one of the most serious things is the draft boards that have taken men over 35, up to 42 and 43, who had led sedentary lives, and we put them to work (doing) setting-up exercises when they first got them to camp -- (who had) hernia. Now that is an amazing disease. (laughter) We don't think about hernia an awful lot, and yet hernia has been one of the great problems in the Army. Now probably those fellows -- some of them can be corrected by giving them a nice, free, hernia operation at the expense of the Government. Or they ought to be sent back to a machine, because a fellow working on the average machine in the factory today -- he can have 10 hernias and never know it; he is all right. (more laughter) Well, it comes down to -- to the actual administration of the individual cases.

Well, on the -- the third thing on the trip I want to tell you about is women. My Lord, they are working perfectly grand. Now whether we like it or not, the big reservoir of manpower in this country is the women; there is no question about it. There is a prejudice against them in some places. We have got to get over that. There are any number of jobs that women can do. If you have a shortage of men, Q.E.D., go to the reservoir of women. You can't just create men at the expense of the Army.

And I am thinking -- as I told you, I haven't decided anything --

but I have been thinking along the lines of getting from Congress a law, calling on the compulsory registration of women. Now those crooked papers, when I said this a week ago, came out with headlines, "President To Ask For Compulsory Draft Of Women." Of course that's a lie. I was very careful. I told the Press, "Now don't say 'draft of women.'" But I think we may be able to get by with it -- but I am not at all sure -- for a law, for a compulsory draft of women between 18 and 65.

Now what happens? The -- say the Employment Service in a given locality -- Poughkeepsie, N. Y. -- they want a hundred women within -- to work within 50 miles on machine tools? Right. What do they do? They have got the list in each district. They have got the cards -- the individual cards in each district. And the card will tell where the woman lives, what she knows, what she has done with her hands, does she want to work, does she want to work at home -- because so many women have to live at home -- or would she take work 10 or 25 or 50 miles away so that you won't have too much disturbance in sending people from New York to California; use the local labor supplies as much as you can.

Now the thought is that if we can get this registration -- this list, sending a questionnaire to every woman on the list, that we will be able to find lots and lots of women all around the country. I know -- I don't know hundreds, I know <u>of</u> hundreds of girls who want to help more greatly in the war than they are doing now. They say, "Where will I help?" I don't know. Now this gives them the chance.

Take the little town of Hyde Park. I know 4 or 5 girls that are keen to do something besides belonging -- besides belonging to the local civilian defense agencies, which of course is merely registration -- warden stuff. They want to work. They don't know where to go to find

out. Now I think we can get an awful lot of women in that way. What the numbers are nobody will know until we try. And do as little regimenting as possible.

Now whether it should be done -- another problem -- by the draft board or somebody else, we have got two or three different schools of thought. These draft boards -- remember they are unpaid -- they are people in professions and businesses. As it is, they can't devote all their days to it; they do the best they can. And my first thought was to give them the duty of checking up the manpower problem for civilian use, as well as for the Army. Well, the answer comes back that these poor draft board people just can't do it. They are doing a swell job today. So I am going on the possibility of another draft board, which would sit almost in the same room -- the next room to the Army draft board, and handle all of the civilian cases.

Then comes the question of who -- who the dissemination of these 4 or 5 million additional workers -- who will be in charge of that. Well, we have got to think of the Employment Services, doing on the whole -- in the country as a whole -- a pretty good job. Well, I hate the idea of starting some new Government department or agency to take care of it. And I incline to the general idea that the Employment Service, which -- where the different States and the Federal Government have always been working together, that they should handle this, in very close touch with Hershey's Selective Service Board. Well, as I say, I haven't checked it.

Now there is one other thing that I wanted to mention, and that is this question of longer hours. One of the boys this morning asked me if I knew anything about somebody's bill in Congress to make people work 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. Well, I said, the very simple

answer is this: we all know from studies that have been made by business, and -- Oh, what? -- commercial -- civilian groups -- that type of thing -- in England and in Germany, and over here -- that if I got a plant, say, that is working 48 hours a week, and when I have got an emergency order and I would jump it to 56 hours a week, that I will get, for a few weeks, a greatly increased production. That is true. But unfortunately the -- the production gets up to a couple of weeks, then starts to slide off again. We have so many illustrations in the past, starting with the World War, where longer hours mean increased production only for a certain length of time.

Then I gave them the illustration of what isn't "proofable," but it seems to be pretty good "dope" from our Intelligence Services in regard to Germany. Last spring -- I think it was April -- Hitler was going to make a great final push this past summer -- try to finish up Russia, and in a few months. And therefore he needed an awful lot more equipment of various kinds -- planes and tanks and ammunition and guns, and so forth and so on -- the whole list. So they started in -- in, I think it was in April. They had been working on about a 60-hour week in these -- not all industry in Germany but in the -- in the crucial munitions industries. And starting in April, they speeded up to a minimum of 70 hours a week in many of these plants; in some plants, by actual records of working in these plants, up to a hundred hours a week, where they had to get the stuff out. All right.

And the production of war materials in Germany jumped very, very greatly, and got to a peak in June. And then, still running this long week, it started to slide off; and it has been sliding off ever since. The production per man or per woman today is down to the production of a 56-hour week.

Now the World War figures -- the First World War figures, both England and here -- show that after the first jump and then the sliding down hill, the 56-hour week -- in England and here -- does not produce any more than a 48-hour week. Now there you are. I mean -- I am simply quoting experts -- (laughter) -- flocks of them -- that have been studying this thing.

And 48 hours seems to me to be in most industries -- of course industries vary -- a pretty good maximum for steady month in, month out production, giving you at the end of the year certainly as much as 56 hours, and at cheaper cost, and certainly more than anything over -- more production than anything over 56 hours a week.

Now I mean I am not -- I am not asking why it is, and so forth, but the actual record does seem to check with that statement that 48 hours is about right for maximum permanent production. I thought that would interest you as just being a slant on what we have been figuring on.

And the manpower thing -- I don't know -- I have no idea how it is going to work out in detail. They asked me when I would have something on it. I said I haven't got the foggiest idea but probably -- Oh, I think it will be within the next few weeks that we will have something. I don't want -- I think we all feel -- I don't want to take the fellow that runs the garage in Hyde Park, who is a fair mechanic -- I don't want to send him a notice that he is to go out to Kaiser's shipyard at Portland, Oregon. I -- I hate the idea, fundamentally. It does mean regimenting all of our American life.

Now we can -- if we can -- if we need people for Kaiser's shipyard in Oregon, like the man who runs the garage, I think we can come pretty close to getting them by volunteering -- pretty close to it. I would

rather try that method first than a regimenting method, and I think all of you would too. It's a beautiful idea to be able to have a law that takes any human being in this country and tells him where to go and what to do. I think we can win the war without doing that. At least, let's try. If it doesn't work, we may have to go further. But on the whole I am very much pleased with everything. I think things are working along, on the whole, pretty well.

I do -- I do think that we have all got to look forward to the elimination of certain -- Oh, I suppose the simplest word is luxuries. Somebody asked me -- an old friend of mine of the Press, Jim Wright of Buffalo, did I have any example of things that were unnecessary that I had seen in window-shopping one day, when I went along F Street? I said, "Yes, Jim, I will give you a very good idea." I said, "For instance, you take yourself and me. There's a window down there on F Street that is full of just one article, and I don't think either you or I could regard that article as anything but a -- a luxury, something that would not be necessary for us to have." And of course everybody got all keyed up. Jim said, "What was it, Mr. President?" I said, "It was baby carriages." (laughter)

So I think most of the -- a lot of the things that are unnecessary -- luxuries -- more and more we will have to curtail in their production. But after all it -- it means -- it's the same idea as a baby carriage factory. We can turn -- we can have it turn out something to do. It doesn't mean that the place has got to close. We would keep it open if we possibly can.

I have got another problem that you can all be thinking about: small business. Gosh! I have had -- I don't know, what? -- I think we are on a third experiment with small business at the present time,

and it's terribly hard.

I have got up in Poughkeepsie -- don't use this in print -- he's an awfully nice fellow, I don't think he wants his name in the paper -- he has got an old sash and blind works that employs 30 first-class carpenters. I think they were organized by Henry Lumb's grandfather about 1840 some. And it's an old, small, permanent concern.

Well, there is no building going on there -- private building -- and they have no more orders. I tried to get them some orders. Almost impossible, because the W.P.B. and the Army and Navy, they asked for bids on cots, and wooden tables, and simple chairs, and medicine cases for the wall, and things like that, which Henry Lumb's factory could turn out. What happens? The bids come in and of course some very, very big company like -- what? -- Simmons Bed -- can under-bid this little concern of 30 -- 30 people in the city of Poughkeepsie.

Now what do we do about it? I don't know. Of course we are trying to -- without paying too much -- we are trying to give the little fellow a chance, even if we pay him more than we pay Simmons Bed. He can't afford to make it at the Simmons Bed price. Now what do we do? Theoretically Government wants to get things as cheaply as they can, and yet we are putting him out of business.

And we are trying to -- to, as I say, give a fellow like Lumb in Poughkeepsie a bid -- a price that he can at least break even on, even if he doesn't make a profit; and he is perfectly willing to do that. And probably that would only give 4 -- 4 or 5 percent over the lowest bidder. That, as you know, is a terribly difficult thing to work against. I am honestly trying -- I have tried 4 or 5 different people on it, and we haven't made a big success of it; and I don't know how to do it.

And also, as you know, the -- this whole war thing is -- I am getting the best brains of business that I can get down here. My God, the people that they have brought down here that are Roosevelt-hating -- (laughter) -- died-in-the-wool, old-fashioned Republicans! They have come to me and said, "Would you mind very much if I got so and so?" I said, "No, go ahead. I am not telling you whom to employ." Now we have got W.P.B. (War Production Board), which is -- Oh, let's put it this way -- it's 100 percent Republican. (laughter) That's right. That's fine. And the people there are hiring their own choice. Now that's an interesting fact. And I haven't said "No" yet.

I think you know the story about Knudsen, who came in one day. He was submitting lists to me from time to time, and he brought in a list of 20 names of big business men, important business men. And I looked it over; I knew pretty well who they were. And I said, "Bill!" I said, "Look! Something got by you. There's a Democrat there." And he said, "Oh, No, Mr. President. There's no Democrat there. He was nominally." I said, "Well, what about that fellow there? He comes from Atlanta, Georgia." "Oh," says Bill, "he galls himself a Demograt but -- but he voted for Villkie!" (laughter)

So you -- you business people, you are running the show now. That is literally true. And there hasn't been a name in the W.P.B., or any of these -- of these organizations, where there is one man put in -- not one, and there are thousands and thousands of them -- because of political reasons -- not one. I will give you a challenge to point one out. Now that is pretty good.

Well, it's good to see you.

MR. PAUL WOOTON: Mr. President, I am assuming that we can use these thoughts?

MR. EARLY: (to the President) Always have, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, Steve.

MR. PAUL WOOTON: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: It's good to see you.

MR. PAUL WOOTON: Certainly fine of you to see them all. It has been very helpful.

(and then to Mr. Early) Thanks, Steve.

MR. EARLY: You're welcome, Paul.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #859
Executive Office of the President
November 10, 1942 -- 4.20 P.M.,E.W.T.

(Mr. Early informed the President that Mrs. Louis Howe was standing in the second row on the right, and the President looked up. Mrs. Howe waved her hand and smiled, and the President laughed and said "Hello")

MR. EARLY: (after conferring with the President again) All set.

THE PRESIDENT: Grand. Really?

MR. EARLY: All set. All set.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I just -- Steve just tells me that -- which makes me very happy -- that General (John J.) Pershing has accepted my invitation to go out to Arlington tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

In regard to the African operations, we have practically no news that you people don't get just about as fast as we get official news.

I do want to revert back for a minute to one thing, I don't know when it was -- quite a long while ago, when I talked somewhat at length about peaks and valleys in the conduct of the war. I think we should remember what I said at that time, that there are peaks and valleys, and especially so in -- in lay opinion. In other words, the average person is a layman -- properly -- and that we mustn't get unduly depressed over one operation, and unduly elated over another operation. So far, the expedition into Africa seems to be going well. So far, the British operation in western Egypt seems to be going well. I think we should, on all operations which are either successful

or the contrary, we should not do much -- too much prognosticating as to the ultimate results as laymen. I don't want to throw cold water on something that -- in that particular area, in that particular operation -- seems to be going well up to the present time. We can be very thankful that that is so.

I don't think I have any further news about anything.

Q Mr. President, we realize that there are certain limitations and a certain secrecy which must be maintained, but is there anything you can tell us now, on a "now it can be told" basis, about the planning over long range, and the execution of this African expedition?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I was telling two or three people this morning, which probably will -- would come (to you) second-hand; so I might as well make it first-hand. (laughter)

The inception of this particular operation goes back to about two weeks after Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941) -- that is a long time ago -- at the time that I invited Mr. (Winston) Churchill and his joint staff to come over here, just before Christmas last year. It was timed for joint planning between the two of the Allied Nations that have the most military and naval force.

And we discussed at that time the desirability of an offensive. And there were various offensives considered, especially the possibility of a very large frontal attack across the English Channel. That was considered in the light, of course, of the creation of sufficient munitions, such as planes, to make it reasonably sure of success. There was also the very large factor of shipping, as to how many people could be got across from here within a given time.

And the military and naval opinion at that time was that it would be feasible. And a good deal of work was done along that line.

The more it was studied, however, the more it became apparent that because of physical limitations, an offensive along the coast of France or Belgium probably could not be carried out with a reasonable chance of success in the year 1942. There were, I say, physical limitations -- the production of various munitions, the training of sufficient men, and the transportation of the men and the materials over to the other side.

Therefore, at the time I asked Mr. Churchill to come over here -- I think it was at the end of May or the beginning of June -- there was an issue presented in regard to an offensive; and that was whether an offensive on a very large scale, which would have been compulsory, could be conducted some time around the middle of 1943, or whether an offensive on a smaller scale, for which the same -- for which the problems of transportation and manufacture were not so great, could be started in 1942.

And at that time we surveyed the various possibilities of a -- a -- an offensive more limited in its scope. And a good many of them were dismissed, with the result that by the end of June there was general agreement on the African offensive; and by the end of July certain fundamentals of it, such as points of attack, numbers involved, and shipping problems -- the manufacturing problems -- were all determined on.

And it was about that particular time -- perhaps a little bit later -- that people were beginning to talk about a second front.

Actually, the second front had already been determined on by the two governments. By the end of August the approximate date of the attack was decided on.

And so in succeeding months both Mr. Churchill and I have had to sit quietly and take with a smile, or perhaps your might say take it on the chin -- (laughter) -- as to what all the ignorant outsiders were demanding.

And I discovered way back a year ago -- nearly a year ago, a very simple fact, and that was that in a world war neither Mr. Churchill nor I could walk down the street and go into a department store and purchase and walk out with a second front. I learned it a long time ago -- many months. I found that a second front was tailor-made -- custom-built. It was an article, no matter where it was situated in any part of the world, they had to decide what kind of a suit of clothes you wanted, and then take it to the expert clothes-makers and not get it delivered until several months had passed.

I thought that most people would have discovered that fact just the way I did. Well, now they have.

And I suppose that's a pretty good rule of all wars. You can throw an expedition together to go somewhere without planning, and in a very rare instance it might work, if you had all the luck on your side, and the other fellow made all the mistakes and you didn't make any. But after all, where hundreds of thousands of lives are involved, we do try to conduct war operations by what is known as a reasonable chance of success. That involves a great deal of study, a great deal of coordination, a great deal of preparation of all

kinds, starting literally in the -- in the -- in the fields and in the mines. It means tieing it in with our other operations in every part of the world. It means that you have to find out how much you have got all told in the war of men and munitions and planes and guns, and see whether you have to do any robbing of "Peter" to pay "Paul"; that in order to carry out the one given objective, whether you can maintain the other objectives, or whether you would be forced to abandon some of the other objectives.

And of course -- I am talking just in words of one syllable -- I have acquired that, I think, during this past year or more, that viewpoint -- because it's really words of one syllable -- you can't conduct at top speed objectives all over the world where you would like to, because of all kinds of things: the totals of production, the totals of man -- trained manpower, not untrained manpower. And finally, the problem of getting the man and the weapon to the place where he will fight the enemy.

And it comes back to the fact that you can't find a second offensive in a department store, ready-made.

And so we ordered an offensive about 4 months ago, and it has taken that length of time to actually put it into effect. And we hope it is going to work.

I don't know any easier way of putting it than that.

Q Mr. President, could you fit in the Morocco agreement to this scheme?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Could you fit in the Morocco agreement into this picture for us, how it goes in?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that one wants to give away things that come very close to a military secret, except this: that I think you can assume that our principal fighting allies have been taken into consultation before anything was done whatsoever. I don't think you could get any trouble out of it.

(here Mr. Early interposed and whispered to the President)

Steve said I said "ignorant outsiders." Well, I didn't mean it in a derogatory way, because it will take -- you can take back the word "ignorant." What I meant was that on a detailed military thing no outsider is cognizant of -- put it in reverse English -- cognizant. (laughter) Therefore, in that sense, they are ignorant of detailed military facts, that's all.

Q Mr. President, have you received as yet any reply from the authorities in Tunisia about your request that we be allowed to pass through Tunisia with troops?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. I don't think any has come.

Q Sir, could you tell us the position of Admiral (Jean Francois) Darlan in Algeria?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I really honestly don't know. All I have got is just what you have had in the press.

Q That he has apparently ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- been captured?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. That's all I know. I haven't heard whether he has.

You see, on the mechanics of this, you have got to remember all of you boys have got perfectly good representatives down there with the Army; and they have got nothing else to do except to see things and write them, and get it onto the cable and the radio. Then, you know, I think most of those boys are working out of London offices -- I think most of them are -- and they are able to get the stuff to London, and London shoots it over to us. Whereas on the -- on the military side, or the naval side, they are -- they are doing a lot of fighting. And as my Chief of Staff said to me the other day, "Any scrap I have ever been in, when I was dodging bullets I wasn't writing dispatches." So we get stuff a great deal later than the press does. And it's a question -- like you asked about Darlan. We haven't had a thing on it; not a thing.

MR. TOM REYNOLDS: Mr. President, in your chronology there was one important event which wasn't mentioned. Were the final decisions clinched during the visit of Mr. (Harry) Hopkins, and (Steve) Early, and --- (laughter)

MR. EARLY: (laughing) Oh!

MR. TOM REYNOLDS: (continuing) Chief of Staff ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think Steve probably -- that Steve did the whole thing. (much laughter)

MR. TOM REYNOLDS: Well, excluding Mr. Early ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It wasn't needed. This was a developing thing -- absolutely developing thing. But, in other words, where do you draw -- where do you draw the line? You see, Tom, the difficulty is where do you draw the line as the point of departure? Well,

the point of departure in one sense was last January, after Mr. Churchill got through here. The next was another step in June. Another step was conversations between June and Steve's visit in July. And then after that there were several steps that were handled partly in person and partly by cable, until the thing got "buttoned up" -- using the worst expression I can use -- somewhere around the end of July. That was the final determination, not merely the policy; that went much further back. Not merely on location; that went much further back. Not merely on general things, like general scope. But it actually got down to that time to details.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, isn't Steve's visit still a military secret?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Isn't Steve's visit still a military secret?

THE PRESIDENT: My Lord, I had forgotten that! (laughter)

MR. EARLY: (interposing) No. It was announced from Hyde Park.

THE PRESIDENT: Announced at Hyde Park.

Q Oh.

Q Still on this chronology, one other point, sir. Is there -- would it be in the "wrong of propriety" to orient the events at Dieppe too into these series of events?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Everything. All the actions, and all around the world -- China.

Q Was the decision that it would be physically impossible because of

physical limitations to launch a widespread offensive against the Channel made before or after Dieppe? According to your chronology it would have been made before, is that not right?

THE PRESIDENT: As I said, a study of a major offensive against the Channel would of necessity put the date into next year.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, the decision on the North African offensive, that is, as to place and preparation, not as to precise time, had been made when Mr. Churchill flew to Moscow for his talk with Mr. (Josef) Stalin?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh, Yes.

Q Mr. President, one point. I understood you to say that the dates were selected at the end of August, and the time at the end of July. Would you make sure what that was ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. The details you might call -- Oh I suppose a good example is places of landing, general totals of units. That was decided on around the end of July. And the decision on the date came about a month later.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us why the date was put after election?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Jimmie Byrnes (Economic Stabilization Director) made a very wise remark today -- one of those curious anomalies. The date was set without anybody thinking about election. But Jimmie said today, if we had really been smart we would have gone back to the fact that I had shifted Thanksgiving Day one week ahead, and why, therefore, didn't I shift the election date to one week

later? (laughter)

Q Mr. President, getting away from the immediate war theaters for a moment, are you -- are you and Mr. (Basil) O'Connor decided as yet upon whether your regular birthday parties will be held next January?

THE PRESIDENT: It's all decided, and I can't tell you because he is handling the release. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, you spoke of planning these offensives as one does custom-made clothes. Could you tell us whether you are giving any consideration to the possibility of a new suit of spring clothes for Mussolini? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: A new what?

Q A new suit of spring clothing for Mussolini? (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if you leave this off the record: by that time he might not have any clothes on at all! (loud laughter)

Q Couldn't we even use that?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all off the record. But they do tell me that he has only got a shirt on now! (more loud laughter)

Q Mr. President, are there any details of the planning you can give us, such as when you made your records, and the planning that went into that -- the French language broadcast? There are some very interesting stories going around on that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think they are essentially true. The -- the messages to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, and His Highness the Bey of Tunis, and -- what was it? -- the Governor-General of -- the Governor of Algiers, I think I did those about -- and signed them -- about 3 weeks ago -- just about -- maybe a little

more -- perhaps nearly a month ago. And then about a few days -- two or three days later I did the phonograph message in the Cabinet room one day. Even Steve wasn't there. (laughter) But then he doesn't speak French, so it was all right. (more laughter) Admiral Leahy and Captain McCrea, and two special operators were in there and did the transcription.

Q Mr. President, you spoke of the choice between a limited offensive now and a larger offensive next summer. Are the limiting factors necessarily still operating to the same extent that they were?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. In other words, I don't think you need to assume that the total of prospective offensive operations has been limited in any way by this African expedition.

Q Well, I was wondering if it might not open up additional possibilities, that is, through the release of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, as I was saying to the State Department -- Secretary of State (Cordell Hull) -- or rather as he was saying to me just now, "Before we talk about the future let's get firmly established in Africa."

Q Well, I just meant as part of the war of nerves.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q I just meant as part of the war of nerves.

THE PRESIDENT: Of nerves. Well, I think this has worked pretty well as a sample of the war of nerves.

Q Don't you suppose, sir, it might be all right to put your observations regarding Mr. Mussolini's wardrobe on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No. No.

Q Mr. President, can you give us the reasons why the Government -- why the attorney general of Puerto Rico has been removed?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better ask the Attorney General of the United States.

Q That has been done, sir, and he doesn't seem inclined to tell us.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) Excuse me.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q (continuing) Have you reached any decision yet on whether to transfer Selective Service over to the War Manpower Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: That is part of the manpower thing. And I have spent a lot of time on it. But as I told you all the other day, at the present time, outside of dairying, the -- there is no immediate emergency, either for legislation or action. The problems of manpower except in -- in dairying, as of the middle of November, are not -- not so emergent that we have to take action in the next week or two.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But something undoubtedly, as I said before, something undoubtedly has got to be done during the -- during the next few weeks to take care of what will be an increasingly serious problem. You all know we have to take into the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard ---

VOICE: (interposing) Can't hear you.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- a whole lot more people. I don't know

what the actual number is -- 4 or 5 million more people. And of course that is the -- that is the first consideration: the fighting forces. And we have got to take the best of manhood into the fighting forces. But at the same time we have got to take care of the food problem, which is also very intimately connected with the winning of the war. We have to take care of an increased industrial production, because we have not yet -- as we all know -- we have not yet reached the peak of our manufacturing production. It's on the way up all the time.

Q Mr. President, you spoke of a message to the Emperor, or Sultan of Morocco. I don't recall that having been made public. Is that something new?

MR. EARLY: (to the President) It hasn't been, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It hasn't been?

Q (interposing) Neither is ---

Q (interposing) Neither have the other two.

MR. EARLY: (continuing) We haven't got a confirmation of it down here.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Oh.

Q Can we use that, Steve, or is that off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can use the fact that they have been written, but that we have not yet got confirmation of the delivery of those messages.

Q That is to the Sultan of Morocco, is it not, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: The Emperor.

Q The Emperor.

Q Could you tell us the nature of it, sir, or is it too early for that?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say not identical but similar to the messages you have already had.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, is Bill Donovan's work still a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Is Bill Donovan's work still a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh my, Yes. Heavens, he operates all over the world.

(laughter)

Q Mr. President, was Secretary Stimson's statement to the House Committee about a 7 million, 500 thousand many Army your decision, or is that a subject which is still under consideration in connection with the whole manpower ---

THE PRESIDENT: No. If you want it today -- you have got an awful lot of stuff -- I would just as soon tell you, in round figures. We are talking about numbers, so far as we can or need to look ahead. Now it looks probable that the fact -- that we are getting every month many tens of thousands of additional men all over the world, and that that means merely -- not merely fighting troops but it means holding of bases acquired. Therefore the Army, of course, must go up. It's now around 4 and a half million men, all told.

And the thought is that toward the end of 40 -- the end of 1943, or the early part of 1944, they going along in on an orderly basis, which is essentially the present basis, it would get up to about 7 million, 500 thousand men. Now that is well over a year ahead. And of course I hope that that will be enough, but I can't

look beyond January, 1944.

Now it means also that on this orderly month by month increase in the total of people in the Army, it means that we have got to be sure that they are equipped, that they have all of the munitions that go with numbers, because the two are integrated. Now that means a large number of people who have to be planned for ahead in civil life, to meet those munitions and equipment for 7 and a half million men which would be coming out at the same date, say January 1944, to keep pace with the orderly increase in the Army. I don't think I would prognosticate beyond that, because I couldn't do it. I have no idea.

Now in the case of the Navy, the Navy is now very nearly up to -- up to one million men. And in all probability we will have enough ships, and enough other duties coming along during the calendar year 1943, so that we could actually use a million and a half men in the Navy by the first of January, 1944. The -- I have forgotten what the exact figures are for the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, but essentially I suppose you could add with the protective forces of other kinds another --- (to himself): 2 -- 4 -- 3 --- about 3 hundred thousand men by that date. Well, that means another half million in the Navy, and another 3 hundred thousand in the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, a total of 8 hundred thousand. Add that to 7 (million), 5 (hundred thousand) -- these are rough figures -- it means about -- well, put it down in round figures -- a million now, and another million ---

Q (interjecting) What's that? What's that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) A million now -- now wait a minute now.

You have got a million. How many have you got in the Coast Guard?

Q 3 hundred thousand ---

THE PRESIDENT: (to himself) 3 hundred ---

Q (continuing) --- something like that.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Well, how many in the Coast Guard?

(to himself): 100 to 150 (thousand). Call it a million, 4 (hundred thousand) today. Add that to 7 and a half (million). That gives 8 (million), 9 (hundred thousand). And add 8 (hundred thousand) to that. Well, that is a total number in the armed forces of 9 million, 7 hundred thousand. That's the easiest way of putting it.

Q By the end of next year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And beyond that I have got the faintest idea, except to express the hope that we won't have to take any more into uniform.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. TOM REYNOLDS: A little copy there, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. TOM REYNOLDS: You made a few good stories. (laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #860
Executive Office of the President
November 13, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M.,E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid I have nothing. I have got a number of hens that are "setting," but they haven't laid any eggs yet.

Q Do "setting" hens lay eggs? (laughter)

(pause)

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President -- Mr. President, did you hear Representative (Melvin J.) Maas (Republican of Minnesota)? Have you had a report on his speech last night?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Did he make a speech?

Q Quite a speech.

Q Could you comment, sir, on the report that Mr. (Bernard) Baruch is undertaking a study of manpower for you?

THE PRESIDENT: He may be doing it without my knowledge. I don't -- I don't believe so. I wouldn't -- I think it would be a poor guess.

Q Mr. President, have we received a reply yet from Generalissimo (Francisco) Franco, and from the Bey and the Resident (Commissioner) of Tunis to our messages?

THE PRESIDENT: There was one from General Franco, and I thought it had been given out.

MR. EARLY: That was Portugal.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: That was Portugal, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I know. I knew we had got Portugal's. There is one. Ask the State Department.

Q Could you tell us anything about the nature of the Generalissimo's reply,

sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Very satisfactory. I don't know about the Bey of Tunis. The State Department may have one. I haven't. You had better ask them.

Q Is the -- Mr. President, is a food czar one of the eggs on which the hen is "setting"?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I am not going to tell you too much about the hens. (laughter)

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, is the Hatch Act stopping you?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MISS MAY CRAIG: Is the Hatch Act stopping you?

(laughter, and cries of "Oh, Oh" as some caught on)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) O, May -- May -- really!

(more laughter, and cries of "Oh, Oh" as others caught on)

MISS MAY CRAIG: (repeating for those who didn't hear) Is the Hatch Act stopping you?

Q What?

MISS MAY CRAIG: Is the Hatch Act stopping you?

Q Oh, Oh. (much laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you made any decision on your Supreme Court appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not yet.

Q Mr. President, have you read the Truman report, advocating a 48-hour work-week?

THE PRESIDENT: Only the papers, that's all. We have got practically a 48-hour work-week now.

Q Mr. President, have you had an opportunity to sign the 18 and 19 year old draft bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we have got it in the White House yet.

MR. EARLY: That's right, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

(pause)

VOICES: (loudly) Thank you, Mr. President.

(much laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #861
Executive Office of the President
November 17, 1942 -- 4.05 P.M.,E.W.T.

(Mr. Early told the President that a Statement to be given to the Press would not be ready for about 10 minutes)

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell them a story for 8 or 10 minutes.

MR. GODWIN: Tell us about those chickens.

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell bed-time stories to our "young" friend here (Earl Godwin). (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Tell us about those chickens.

THE PRESIDENT: It takes a Maine girl from a farm to know about chickens. (Miss May Craig, who asked the question last week) (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I got a letter about that.

(Mr. Early talked further with the President)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

(Mr. Early still talked with the President)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

MR. GODWIN: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I have only got one thing here. It's a memorandum to all departments and agencies.

(reading): "I am most anxious ---"

-- Steve (Early) has got copies of this --

(continuing reading): "I am most anxious to make sure that no man should be deferred from military service by reason of his employment ---"

-- Bad grammar, Steve. Fix that up, will you --

(continuing reading): " --- in any Federal department or agency, either in Washington or in any other place.

"If any such deferment has been given to anyone within your respective jurisdiction, would you please arrange for cancellation thereof as soon as possible, and notify the Selective Service Board having jurisdiction. No further requests for deferment by reason of such employment should be made, either by the agency or by the employee.

"I am sure that in the overwhelming number of cases this action will be welcomed by the young men themselves who are involved.

"I know that in certain technical or highly scientific or specialized branches of the service, there are a few employees who by reason of unique experience are really irreplaceable by women or older men. If there are any which in your opinion fall within this category, please write to me the full details of them, so that their cases may be passed on individually."

In other words, no blanket exemptions, which I think goes for all the departments.

MR. GODWIN: That -- that runs right straight across the path of a directive -- I happen to be in that service ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- that we got today, which practically puts anybody who wants to, in the Government service, in 2-B or 3-B.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, this puts that ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) You know about that?

THE PRESIDENT: It stops that.

Q Has that come out, or is that going to come out?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that has come out this afternoon. The copies were

just finished in the other room.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Q Mr. President, have you any figures as to the number of people who will be affected by this?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I guess it will be quite a lot.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

MR. P. BRANDT: Have you had any reports on the number of deferments that have been asked?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I -- I have got it somewhere, but I don't remember, Pete.

MR. P. BRANDT: Pretty large, I know that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, altogether too large.

Q Does this include civilian employees of the War and Navy Departments?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh my, Yes.

MR. P. BRANDT: What about the young officers that are still around here?

THE PRESIDENT: I think most of them have gone too, haven't they? Well, I got a -- I got a report on them about a month ago, and directed that they be moved to happier climes, and I am sure that they would be.

You say they haven't, but I will check up on it again, Pete.

Q Does it include W.P.B. (War Production Board) men?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Does it include the W.P.B. men whose connection with the Government is more or less transient?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. There is no discrimination in favor of brains. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there seems to be considerable clamor in Congress, and wherever automobilists are organized, against immediate nation-wide

rationing (of gasoline). (There was) something in Congress on it the last day or two. Have you any views on it at all?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't. I am talking to Mr. (William) Jeffers about it, I think at the end of this week. I haven't heard anything further.

MR. GODWIN: What do you think the end of this week will do?

THE PRESIDENT: Talk with Jeffers.

MR. GODWIN: Oh. The end of this week. Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, have you had any communiques from "Admiral" Maas of Minnesota? (Republican Congressman Melvin J.) (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. We call them "field marshals" in the Marine Corps, not admirals. (more laughter)

Q Is there anything you would care to say, Mr. President, about the naval battle (U. S. Pacific Fleet's severe defeat of the Japanese navy in the Solomons)?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except, of course, you can imagine I was very much upset hearing about poor old Dan Callaghan (Rear Admiral Daniel J., who was killed when a Japanese shell struck the bridge), who certainly did a glorious [thing?] scene taking a 10-thousand-ton cruiser up against a 25 or 30-thousand-ton battleship at point-blank range.

HKB 3-15-57

On the whole, of course, the -- the operation -- I think that what I -- this part should be off the record, because it's based on what I told you people the other day about the Southwest Pacific operations.

The primary objective there is to hold the present line, which runs roughly through New Guinea and Guadalcanal. And that is why I said it wasn't a -- a decisive engagement, for the reason that if we had to fall back to the next line, we could stop them there; but I hope we can hold the present line. Now this action has stopped the latest --

the third or the fourth -- Japanese offensive against that line. The last we know is what appeared in the papers, that Japan's ships, when last seen, were proceeding in the opposite direction. Therefore, it can be called a major victory.

Q May we put the "major victory" phrase, sir, on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so. I think that's all right.

Q Mr. President, to return to your conference with Mr. Jeffers, is there any thought -- is this conference designed to reconsider the question ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q (continuing) --- of nation-wide rationing?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a bit. I haven't seen him -- Oh, quite a long while ago -- several weeks. It's merely to have him give me the latest "dope."

Q Is there any progress on the manpower control, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Spend a lot of time on it.

Q Mr. President, is any effort being made to change or modify the anti-Jewish laws and regulations now in effect in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That is included in the statement which Steve (Early) ought to have here in four -- three or four minutes.

MR. EARLY: It's on the way now, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. I told him I would string you along and tell you some bed-time stories.

(here Mr. Early handed some papers to the President)

It is included in this:

(reading): "I have accepted (Lieut.) General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower's political arrangements made for the time being in North Africa and Western Africa.

"I thoroughly understand and approve the feeling in the United States and Great Britain, and among all the other United Nations, that in view of the history of the past two years no permanent arrangement should be made with Admiral (Jean Francois) Darlan. People in the United Nations likewise would never understand the recognition of a reconstituting of the Vichy government in France, or in any French territory."

I am afraid I am cutting a lot of good stuff out of the feet -- from under the feet of people who don't think things through.

(continuing reading): "We are opposed to Frenchmen who support Hitler and the Axis. No one in our Army has any authority to discuss the future government of France or the French Empire.

"The future French government will be established not by any individual in metropolitan France or over-seas, but by the French people themselves, after they have been set free by the victory of the United Nations."

It's all words of one syllable stuff -- but it's powerful. (laughter)

Q (aside) What was that?

Q Powerful.

Q Powerful.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing reading): "The present temporary arrangement in North and West Africa is only a temporary expedient, justified solely by the stress of battle.

"The present temporary arrangement has accomplished two military objectives. The first was to save American and British lives on the one hand, and French lives on the other.

"The second was the vital factor of time. The temporary arrangement has made it possible to avoid a mopping up period in Algiers and Morocco, which might have taken a month or two to consummate. Such a period would have delayed the concentration for the attack from the West on Tunis, and we hope on Tripoli.

"Every day of delay in the current operations would have enabled the Germans and Italians to build up a strong resistance, to dig in, and make a huge operation on our part essential before we could win. Here again many more lives will be saved under the present speedy offensive than if we had to delay it for a month or more.

"It will also be noted that French troops under the command of General (Henri Honore) Giraud have already been in action against the enemy in Tunisia, fighting by the side of American and British soldiers for the liberation of their country.

"Admiral Darlan's proclamation assisted in making a mopping up period unnecessary. Temporary arrangements made with Admiral Darlan apply without exception to the current local situation only."

Now this is in reply to your question:

(continuing reading): "I have requested the liberation of all persons in North Africa who have been imprisoned because they opposed the efforts of the Nazis to dominate the world; and I have asked for the abrogation of all laws and decrees inspired by Nazi governments or Nazi ideologists. Reports indicate the French of North Africa are subordinating all political questions to the formation of a common front against the common enemy."

Q.E.D!' (laughter)

Q Mr. President, is there anything to be said at this time about the position

of General (Charles) DeGaulle?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I wouldn't -- I wouldn't worry about it. It's all right.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us what -- what bearing this has on the application of Vichy representatives -- diplomatic representatives in the United States -- their effort to become accredited to Darlan?

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it. Are they still here?

Q I understand so. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I thought -- I thought of putting in there, but I didn't, an old Balkan proverb, which I cannot have even attributed to me, because at the present time I don't like to call names any more than one has to. It's rather a nice old proverb of the Balkans that has, as I understand it -- has the full sanction of the Orthodox Church.

And it runs -- this is off the record -- complet -- (French for completely) -- (laughter) -- look it up in an encyclopedia of Balkan proverbs if you want to -- (more laughter) -- it runs something like this. The -- mind you, this is okayed by the Church.

It says, "My children, you are permitted in time of great danger to walk with the Devil until you have crossed the bridge."

(loud laugher)

Rather nice!

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #862
Executive Office of the President
November 20, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

(The Secretaries to the President, the Naval Aides, Administrative Assistants, et al, all adjusted themselves comfortably in their seats behind the President's desk, and waited; but nothing happened -- no newspapermen appeared. The President looked up and laughed. Notice had not been given to the outside to let them in.)

THE PRESIDENT: Will you have tea or scotch? (much laughter)

GENERAL WATSON: A little gin, at this time of day, sir.

(Newspaper men begin to file in)

Q Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have signed an Executive Order yesterday, which really is looking pretty far into the future, because we are not -- not anywhere near up to it, increasing -- authorizing an increase in the number of WAACS up to 150 thousand. That doesn't mean that they will total that for a long time, but it takes a good deal of training; and we expect to be up to -- by next July, in the -- in those on duty -- about 56 thousand. And this merely fixes the maximum statutory strength at 150 thousand; although, as I say, there is no expectation that it will come to anything like that for a long time.

Then I sent a letter yesterday to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, in regard to this question of employees in the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

There was quite a rush -- of course I can understand it -- we all can -- quite a rush last Tuesday afternoon -- people who thought they were going to be drafted at once, trying to get commissions -- (laughter) -- or enlist. And I don't think we ought to go about it that way, because -- for this reason. There will be a good many people here in Washington who really are essential, and who nevertheless want to get into uniform. Well, if they are essential they ought not to be allowed to get into uniform; they will stay right here. And the whole question comes down to the definition of the word "essential"; that is the thing we are -- we are trying to find out about.

In the meanwhile it will be a fairly long process -- probably two or three months -- before we get through with the whole Government; and during that period we want to be sure we don't make mistakes and have really essential people leave their work, just in order to get into uniform. So this letter to the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy provides that they must not enlist or commission any of these people, after last Monday, until further notice; ---

Q (interposing) Is any Government employee ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and they can only do it if they have the approval of the head of the agency or department with which they are connected.

Well, you can see that that is beginning to follow a pattern which eventually, when we get the manpower set up, will mean that we will prevent the drafting of people under the Selective Service law out of munitions plants where they are very much needed.

Q Mr. President, does that drafting of people out of munitions work -- does that not apply equally well to enlisting them?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing.

Q Essential people have been enlisting ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Same thing. Exactly the same thing.

Q Then eventually the -- the munitions plant worker will not be allowed to enlist?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, he will be allowed to enlist if he is not essential. I mean at the present time.

Q (interposing) I mean, are you looking ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) If he is not essential to the munitions plant, at the present time, he has a right to enlist; but we have got to find out from -- from somebody as to whether he is essential or not.

Q Mr. President, how soon will that be extended to the munitions plants?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as soon as we get the manpower set up, which will be fairly soon, I hope.

Q Mr. President, could you give us any example or definition of what you mean by "essential," in that connection?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if you had been permitted to go on the trip with me, you would have understood it. (laughter) For example, there are certain operations in a -- Oh, what? -- a cartridge factory where you don't need an awful lot of skill; in other words, the kind of thing that you can teach a girl to do in three or four weeks. Now (suppose) you are holding that job. And if I can teach a girl to do it, and your figure is good enough to go into the Army, you wouldn't get any exemption. They would take you into the Army.

On the other hand, -- well, I will give you -- I will give you an example. There were two -- two foremen in one of the plants we visited, and they were not only skilled in the sense that they had had long training, but they also were in charge of perhaps 25 or 30 machines, and the people who were operating them. They had not only the manual

skill, and knew all about those machines, but they -- they also had the quality of leadership; they were able to handle 25 or 30 workers.

Well, they happened to live in different ends of the town. Each one of them had a wife, but no other dependents. The draft board gave, in one part -- the north end of the town -- gave an exemption to one of them, but didn't give an exemption to the fellow who was working on the other side of the aisle; and yet the two cases were absolutely similar in almost every way.

Now that is a difficult thing to do, with thousands of draft boards all over the country -- to get uniformity. They do the best they can. And probably, when we come to what might be called the next steps, we can get more uniformity from the draft boards by bringing in an element which is not sufficiently there: have the manager of the plant, or the supervisor of that particular kind of work, certify to the draft board as to whether in their judgment the man really is irreplaceable. I don't think we have got enough of that yet. We don't consult enough with some of these factories, and people who -- people who manage them, as to their own personnel.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Of course, the training -- the training process is getting better all the -- all the time. For instance, in the case we cited first, if -- if somebody could be trained to take your place in three or four weeks, you ought not to be kept and given an exemption. You ought to go into the Army.

Q Mr. President, in the cases of these two foremen, doesn't that indicate a possible change in the appeal system of the draft system -- the appeals mechanism of the draft system? Is there any ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know. You have a certain thing called

psychology in there. It is very difficult.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, probably avoid appeals almost entirely by giving more information to the draft board itself.

Q Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, some factories, I have been told, have to deal with about 300 different draft boards. Is there any plan for regional deferment boards?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know any -- except New York City. I don't know how they have to deal with 300 draft boards.

Q That is what I have been told by somebody.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you take -- you take the State of New York. Essentially there is an area control in there.

Q Mr. President, isn't it true that men who are working in factories are still under the jurisdiction of their local draft boards at home and in the country somewhere; that is ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- that you have heard of?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think that is true. I think that is true.

Q I think the one I was talking about specific -- specifically was in Kansas City, where they had to deal with 300 boards.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's a big area. That's another of the things that is going to be, I hope, simplified. First the national pool, then the regional pool, then the local pool -- things of that kind.

Q Mr. President, what do you think of the Tolan Committee's recommendations along this same line of manpower?

THE PRESIDENT: I honestly -- this will have to be off the record, because it displays too great ignorance on my part. I haven't read the report

yet. I have got it in my basket. (indicating)

Q Mr. President, speaking of the manpower setup, when can we expect that?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon.

Q Mr. President, will it take the form of a request for legislation, or will it be an administrative measure?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you finally on that, but I don't think much, if any, legislation is required in the beginning. We may, in working into it, require some later on.

Q Mr. (William) Green (president of the A.F.L.) said yesterday that he anticipated an announcement on the registration of women within two weeks.

THE PRESIDENT: Well now, there again, should registration -- it's an open question -- should registration of women be on a voluntary basis or compulsory basis? There are two schools of thought. There is the one school of thought that says, "No, you won't get enough." The other school of thought says, "You will get plenty of them by the voluntary method, if it's made exceedingly simple."

MISS MAY CRAIG: But Mr. President, you don't get the lazy, bridge-playing "no goods" on a voluntary basis. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's perfectly true. Query: Do we want them? (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your plans for Thanksgiving?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not yet. Haven't got the data.

Q Mr. President, what -- what do you think of the filibuster of certain Democrats ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I have absolutely no knowledge about it whatsoever.

Q Do you think the (anti-poll tax) bill would pass?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no knowledge about it, so I am not going to tell you what I think, because I don't know anything about it; and I haven't talked to anybody about it.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to observe the end of our first year of war on December 7 in any manner, whether through a speech or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is something I am going to talk to Mr. Elmer Davis about after this (Press) Conference.

Q Mr. President, what is the situation on the food czar?

THE PRESIDENT: On the what?

Q Food czar?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think there is such a thing as a food czar.

Q Not yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, ---

Q (interjecting) Will there be one?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- not yet.

No. Don't use the word "czar" in administering government -- (laughter) ---

Q (interposing) Coordinator.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- under the Democratic process.

Q (repeating) Coordinator.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Oh, we will get something on that very soon.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook XI-PC - page 84 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #863
Executive Office of the President
November 24, 1942 -- 4.10 P.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin as he sat down) How do you do?

MR. GODWIN: How do you do.

THE PRESIDENT: Little stranger!

MR. GODWIN: I had to go to New York.

MR. EARLY: Mr. President. (calling attention to policeman's badge on Mr. Godwin's waistcoat)

MR. GODWIN: I am a cop. One of Russ Young's cops.

THE PRESIDENT: One of those stage scenery things. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: Kinda glad to know he is one of them, though.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Two parking tickets since I got it. (more laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything today.

Q Mr. President, there have been some conflicting reports recently on wherein lies the final authority on our production program. I wonder if you could tell us whether Mr. (Donald) Nelson, or the Army and Navy have the final say on production schedules, and the allocation of materials?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess the answer is that they work it out together.

Well, just -- I will give you an example -- I think I have mentioned this before -- I won't give you the figures because I think I will hold it for a more important occasion than this; but -- (laughter) -- but on the production of airplanes -- airplanes, as I suggested to you before, changed very greatly in character since last January. They are -- each one is weighing a great deal more than its type did a year

ago. Each one has more wing-spread than its type had a year ago. Each type had a -- each one has more horse-power than its type did a year ago. Each one takes a great many more manhours to make than it did a year ago.

All right. We are -- you can say that on the basis of work -- workmanship, we are going to spend more workmanship on planes in the calendar year '43, a great deal more than we are doing today, or than we have done in the average of this year. In other words, a constantly stepping up -- an increasing program in terms of workmanship.

Well now, you come down to certain totals. These totals are that we have raised our sights, not on the total number of units, but on the -- on the total workmanship that goes into planes. And there you get a problem. This man, who is a production expert, says you can do so and so. Another man, who is a production expert, says you can't do as much as that; you can only do less. And then comes the problem to the Chiefs of Staff. What are you going to do with them when you get them? Have you got the men to man them? Do we have to man all that we make, or can we turn them over to somebody else that has more men than they need, for their own production?

Now all those things have to be worked out between the staff people and the actual production people. The question of -- of shipping comes into it. We can fly today a great many more planes, and more types of planes under their own power, to the theatre of war -- different theatres of war, than we could a year before. Well, that means that every month that goes by almost, the transportation of -- of planes in -- in ships is -- is changed. I won't say simplified, because there are so many more that are coming out.

And then comes the question of, when we get them to the theatre of war in increasing quantities, can we at the same time get in the ships the spare engines, the spare parts, the gasoline to make them fly, the ground crews, and everything else for the theatre of operations? Now those are things that are -- it's -- it's a constant day by day problem of reconciling all of these factors and all of these opinions. And the reconciliation of the new factors and the latest opinions is going on every single day; and it is getting on extremely well.

Of course, we have to reckon -- now this is not derogatory -- suppose one of you fellows goes to one man who is concerned with, let us say, the training of a special -- a special ground crew, and he says that, By Gosh, he doesn't think that they can get out enough ground crews. Then you go to somebody else who is a specialist on it, who disagrees personally with the other fellow. What do you do? You get those two stories. Now it's machinery that is working every day for the reconciliation of all these different points of view.

And therefore, from the -- from the point of view of truth then, about the only thing you can do is to see whether the stuff is actually coming out as well as it reasonably can be hoped. That means the material into the services of repair, spare parts, the flying personnel and everything else. Well, on the whole, it is going along pretty well.

Q Mr. President, almost every day we read that you plan to put one man over all these activities. Would you be able to reconcile the differences of these individuals better that way, or not?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is merely -- you know what it is. I can -- I can take two blueprints of exactly the same kind of organization, and those

two blueprints won't look like each other at all.

Q Well, sir, specifically, is there anything in the works ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q (continuing) --- on giving one man ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's just -- it's just like sitting down and drawing -- what do they call it when a fellow sits and draws a figure ---

Q (interjecting) Doodling?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Doodling?

THE PRESIDENT: Doodles, that's it. Now they are just engaging in doodles.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) 90% of the time they will draw new pictures; and "doodle" is a very good word for it.

Q Mr. President, in relation to this reported conflict over production and scheduling, has your attention been called to this question of an aircraft committee headed by Charles E. Wilson (former president of General Electric Company), which Mr. Nelson announced he had appointed, and which the Army and Navy have declined to countersign?

THE PRESIDENT: Not in that form. Mr. Wilson is going to have general charge of production. Well, just for example, on the production of planes there are -- Oh, I suppose half a dozen out of a -- out of a hundred places where in individual plants, or individual parts of an airplane, the thing is not clicking -- half a dozen out of a hundred. Now they have got to be eliminated.

Put it in another practical way, a plane is finished by -- Oh, what? -- the Douglas (aircraft) people. The minute it's ready at the Douglas plant, the navigational instruments ought to be ready for it.

Well, there are all kinds of navigational instruments. It may be one type of plane where somebody hasn't kept up to his time schedule, and there it will sit, maybe for a month -- two months -- before the special gadget that is to go into that special type of airplane is ready for it. Now that's another job which Mr. Wilson is to coordinate and work out kinks of that kind, on timing.

Q Mr. President, the -- that timing situation, I believe, develops as a matter of scheduling, to a large extent. Of course the schedule was changed all the time. And I think the issue now is who shall have the final authority as to say whether a thing will be settled this way or that way, the Army or Mr. Wilson, who is supposed to be acting for Mr. Nelson in production?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is one of those theoretical things, and none of you are experts on scheduling, any more than I am. I suppose it's a little bit like doodling. It depends who has the pencil and the piece of paper.

Q That's the question.

Q That's it.

Q Does Mr. Wilson have the pencil?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Does Mr. Wilson have the pencil?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I would say they all do mutually, and they are supposed to agree. And if they don't agree, then I'll put them in a room and I'll say, "No food until you come out in agreement." (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) That's the way.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a practical thing. It isn't a thing to write a story about. None of us knows. Not one of us here in this

room knows how to do a thing like that the best way, because there are half a dozen ways. You people who were with me on the trip know that we went -- I won't name any names -- through four different ---

Q (aside) Don't keep rubbing that in. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- aviation plants; and all four of those plants had different methods of putting an airplane together. Well, there had been an awful lot of "touting" of one particular method. From the layman's point of view it sounds awfully attractive: start something on a belt, and as the belt moves on, the plane takes form like a little old Ford car. (laughter) Well, it sounds awfully attractive to all of us, but you take these engineers, they are specialists. They think, some of them, that Mr. A's way isn't as good as Mr. B's way, which is not the continuous belt but is some other kind of belt that goes by fits and starts. And another fellow says No; you ought to do only half the operations by belt. And still another fellow says the belt method is silly; start your automobile on a place on the floor, and finish it right there. Now who is there among you, or myself, that knows which is the best?

The point is in actual production they are all working -- these different methods. Some are working better than others. It doesn't mean that they are -- that it is the fault of their method. It may be the fault of some other factor that enters into production. We are all children. You are all children. I am a child when it comes to engineering.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But on the whole it is going along pretty well. There are one or two plants that still have got bad kinks in them.

Q Mr. President, when you saw Mr. Nelson yesterday, did he raise with you the question of Mr. Wilson's authority in the aireraft field?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Never mentioned it.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President -- Mr. President, back there in the beginning of your talk, I think you said they are raising the sights on total workmanship. Did I understand you to say that the total of planes had not been increased?

THE PRESIDENT: No. But you get much more per plane.

MR. GODWIN: The reason I asked, I thought sometime ago that you had asked for an increase in planes, and I thought ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, look, I will give you the illustration. Which would you rather have, 30 five-dollar -- 30 five-dollar gold pieces, or 20 ten-dollar gold pieces?

MR. GODWIN: Oh -- one is 200, and one is 150.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter) Well, in other words, which would you rather have, a plane of the type that we turned out in January last year -- 10 thousand of them; or would you rather have 8 thousand that were twice as good?

MR. GODWIN: The latter, of course.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, that's the answer.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q It isn't a question of actual number of planes.

MR. GODWIN: I simply asked to see whether ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- I had noted it right, that's all.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, do you expect any action soon on acquiring a successor to Mr. (James F.) Byrnes on the Supreme Court?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on that yet. You can say: soon. But then I said that last week too. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, are you ready to move on your manpower solution yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about your discussion with President (Carlos Alberto) Arroyo (Del Rio) (of Ecuador) last night, after the dinner?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we had an awfully interesting discussion, as I have had with a number of other heads of American governments. We talked about two things.

The first, of course, was the immediate and present problem of the war, and the general solidarity of the 21 nations, which is a very high percentage of solidarity -- I won't put it any other way.

And secondly, about the future, about trying to get an economy for the North and South Americas -- Central America -- which will raise their standards -- the standards and the wealth of the poorer nations, and the smaller nations, without hurting our economy or the economy of the larger or richer nations as they exist at the present time.

I may have something to say, later on, in regard to that subject, on the part of certain elements of thinking in this country: that we are trying to debase our economy merely to build up other people's.

But of course the general -- the general thought -- I can give you an illustration right here at home -- back in the old days, when I went South -- the deep South -- Oh, what? -- 15 -- 20 years ago --

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the whole standard of earnings was so low that those people down there -- this is background, 24 or 5 (meaning around 1924 or 1925) -- was so low that they couldn't buy anything at the store. And a great many Northern people -- including Southern people -- failed to realize that if their purchasing power down there in the South was higher -- increased relatively faster, let us say, than the Northern manufacturing districts, those people down there would acquire purchasing power for the purchase of things that were made in the North, and therefore would put a whole lot of people to work in the North, and thereby increase the purchasing power of the North too.

Well, it sounds awfully simple the way you say it, but I don't know -- nobody -- nobody ever acted on it until we began to get -- this is not political, it's merely historical -- it did happen after 1933; the purchasing power of the South began to go up by leaps and bounds.

In rural Georgia, for example, back there, there was hardly a local store that was solvent, quite aside from the banks. They didn't turn their stock over. There was no -- there was no -- there were no buyers on Saturday afternoons in the country districts in the South, and there the stock remained.

Well, I don't know -- maybe one or two are still here that accompanied me down to Georgia in those days. But if you remember the local stores down there, if you went in to buy a hat, you would find it was an 8-year-old vintage -- (laughter) -- there was no turn-over. That meant that the fellow was losing so much interest on his -- the money he had borrowed to buy his stock with, and each year he was going deeper into the red.

Now since then, in the whole of the agricultural South, they have

had a greater turn-over, because they have had more buying power. Now it certainly hasn't hurt the North. It has given the North, and the manufacturing districts, the opportunity to make things and sell in the South that they had never done before; just for example, before this war.

Now the same thing can be worked out in those nations -- we are working at it -- which today have got practically no purchasing power. It is going to help them enormously, but it is going to help us too. It's a perfectly obvious thing; and yet there are a lot of people in this country, they can't see the value of putting other people onto their feet.

Now you will begin to find in the United States quite a group of people that will say, in regard to the appointment of Governor (Herbert H.) Lehman (Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, Department of State), the other day, "Is the United States going to shell out our food and our clothing? Are we going to spend our good money to -- to rehabilitate other nations? What's the big idea?" Now you will find that an increasing -- from now on -- slogan. It will be put out all over the United States.

Q <u>Are</u> we going to, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Sure, we are going to rehabilitate them. Why? All right. Not only from the humanitarian point of view -- you needn't stress that unless you want to -- there's something in it -- but from the point of view of our own pocketbooks, and our own safety from future attack -- future war.

Q Would you say that their production should be increased commensurately also, to offset our production?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, sure.

Q Mr. President, when do you plan to say something on that, and in what manner will you make it?

THE PRESIDENT: I will do it over the radio. In this case I want to reach a different audience. (laughter) It's all right.

Q Mr. ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, would you tell us a little bit about what you said about Ecuador last night, and your remarks at the dinner?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- I never have my remarks taken down -- I suppose I should -- I was talking about the general thought that the -- irrespective of politics or party, that the -- what we sneer at, some of us, as a Good Neighbor Policy is becoming ingrained in all of the Americas. The people are beginning to believe that if we continue through another 10 years or 20 years to maintain it as a continental policy, that it will work. And I mentioned the -- the illustration that they have got the idea, the Democratic form of government -- Democracy -- all through there.

What happened at the end of 1936, when I went down to Rio (de Janeiro), and Buenos Aires, and Montevideo? Great crowds were in the streets, and the crowds were yelling; but I was interested in what they were saying. There were some of them that were saying, "Viva Roosevelt." But the great bulk of them were saying, "Viva La Democracia." Now that -- that meant something. They were talking about Democracy as they saw it. And it's something that was worth living for and worth fighting for.

And why -- then why don't -- and I said that -- as I said before, I didn't think there was much question that the -- that the policy is

part of the national policy here, regardless of what the political complexion of the Administration is here. Same way down there. In all the other Republics, whoever the president the next time, whoever is the government in different places, they will go along with the idea of "Democracia," and the thought of the Good Neighbor.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think that was all, as I remember it, something like that.

Q Mr. President, is there any comment you would care to make, sir, on the current Russian offensive?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think all I can say is that I got an intimation of it several days ago, and that I am delighted that it is going so well. You can say dee-lighted, if you want to. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #864
Executive Office of the President
December 1, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M.,E.W.T.

Q How do, sir.

(the President nodded)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early) What have you got?

MR. EARLY: Can't find anything that's useful, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: You haven't got anything ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Nothing?

MR. EARLY: (continuing) --- that I know that you are ready to talk about.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's terrible.

MR. EARLY: Maybe questions will bring out something. Invite them.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

MR. EARLY: Well, that's what I thought. There's nothing around here.

THE PRESIDENT: (to the front row newspapermen, who were whispering to Miss May Craig) You are not putting any ideas ---

MR. DONALDSON: (interposing) All in.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in May's head, are you?

Q Trying. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says that there is nothing ready to serve. Quite a lot -- quite a lot of food that's on the -- on the range, but it isn't cooked for you yet.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to name (present Secretary of the Interior Harold L.) Ickes Secretary of Labor?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Do you plan to name Mr. Ickes Secretary of Labor?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh -- nothing -- nothing on the fire.

Q Nothing on the fire, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter)

Q Maybe it has been cooked, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't cooked.

Q That isn't on the range, Mr. President?

Q Nothing on the range, Mr. President?

Q Would you say that was one of the things not on the range?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you could say it's not on the range. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) What do you mean by that, Mr. President? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) What? The first thing I know somebody will start singing "Home On The Range." (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you tell us if you have conferred with Mr. Ickes today either in person ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, I conferred with lots of people today.

Q Mr. President, Oliver Lyttelton told us yesterday he thought the war could be won by June of next year. Do you think that's a little too optimistic? That is the European War. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's perfectly all right for Mr. Lyttelton to make his guesses. You have noticed I haven't made any guesses yet, have you?

Q Mr. President, are you preparing a directive to define the W.P.B.'s (War Production Board) power over production schedules?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I wouldn't -- I wouldn't write much of a story about that. There was a problem there as to the -- what might be called the fringes, in between W.P.B. and the military end of production. There were certain places where there was overlapping. And I told you last

week what the answer was -- and it still is the answer -- and that was that on these fringe questions, they would go into a room and settle it. Well, it has been done. That's all there is. It has been done.

There isn't very much story in that, except that there is an awful lot of a story in it. (laughter) In other words, it hasn't slowed up production -- this question. It's a practical question which didn't get down the line to the factories while it was going on, and then it was settled. Now that -- that really is -- is a big story in one sense, because it ought to overcome false impressions which were created in various quarters, trying to raise that particular question to a star of the first magnitude, which it wasn't.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us when you expect some sort of settlement on this manpower policy?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon.

Q When that question is settled, Mr. President, will it also settle such questions as hoarding labor in plants, absenteeism, and kindred questions?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so. I don't know very much (about it). Where for instance?

Q Sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Where?

Q Well, I hate to have to be a local reporter, but there have been some reports of it in Buffalo, both hoarding and absenteeism.

THE PRESIDENT: What do you mean by absenteeism?

Q People taking time off because they made too much money. People taking time off for other reasons. People taking time off for promoting

sales, and one thing and another, when they should be keeping production up.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And there is a certain amount of absenteeism of girls who get too tired to work the sixth day. Oh, I don't know, those -- those are details which are generally handled in localities. And I haven't heard any -- any widespread complaint about absenteeism. I don't think there is any widespread complaint about it. We may find some enthusiasts in some local plant that will call an absence from the machine on a given date absenteeism. I don't think it's a very widespread failing in this country. Any other places?

Q Not that I know of, sir. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you had confirmation of the Vichy report that all of the French fleet was sunk at Toulon?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We have had no -- what shall I call it? -- conclusive report. There are various reports, all of which differ from each other. We are not ready to form a definite conclusion at this time. Now that is -- that is -- that is literally all there is to it. We don't know how many ships were sunk, and how many ships escaped, and how many ships are still sitting there afloat, either badly damaged or not damaged at all. It's just one of "them" things. I would tell you if I knew, but I don't.

Q Mr. President, there have been reports floating around today that General (Charles) DeGaulle is coming over to see you. Is there anything definite on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- I don't -- well, I will tell you frankly, I don't know. But I was asked if I would receive him if he came over, and I said Yes, that I would receive him. Now some people said that I had

invited him over. That does not happen to be true. So if he does come over, I will see him. Now that's -- that's accurate language.

Q Thank you.

Q Who asked you to receive him?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Who asked you to receive him?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have said all along that I would see anybody that came over here -- just about. (much laughter) As a matter of fact, I think I do.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, there was a report that you would ask for legislation to cover all income, so that it would be brought down to 25 thousand net?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that, you know, I recommended last year.

MR. P. BRANDT: Yes. But I mean this is a re-recommendation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't written my Message yet. I haven't thought of it.

And incidentally, on that, Pete, I wish you would get the idea across to everybody, and that is that there are -- there is a way of saying something to the public which is -- what shall I say? -- letter correct, but conveys an erroneous impression to the public of the United States. And I have seen it happen. It's a matter of -- I don't know, what? -- carelessness, of talking about a 25 thousand dollar limit on salaries when actually, of course, it isn't a 25 thousand dollar limit on salaries, it's a 67 thousand, 200 dollar limit on salaries. Now that's correct. And that takes -- will take a lot of explaining to the public, and I will probably have to say so on the air.

It isn't a 25 thousand dollar limit, it's a 25 thousand net. But if you don't say it's a 67 thousand, 200 dollar limit, the public gets the wrong impression. They get the idea that a fellow is limited to 25 thousand dollars, and then out of that he has to take half of it or more to pay his taxes. I am just -- I am just talking in the interests of accuracy in the minds of the public.

Now, of course, there is one other thing, which I think has been forgotten. Back in '33, the railroads of the United States were just about "bust." Most of them would have been "bust" if it hadn't been for the R.F.C. Act, by which the Government of the United States lent them enough money to tide them over, in some cases for 6 months, in other cases for a year.

Now in that tiding over, when we loaned Government money to keep the railroads out of the hands of receiverships -- Oh, and there were lots of them -- Jesse Jones (Secretary of Commerce now) came in to see me one day, and he said, "You know, some of these salaries on these roads -- which are public services -- these railroads," he said, "they are too high."

"Well," I said, "what are they?"

He said, "In some cases they are 150 thousand dollars a year, and in other cases they are 125 thousand."

And probably the average salary of a railroad president or chairman of the board is way up around 100 thousand a year.

And he said, "I don't think a railroad which is borrowing money from the Government to keep going, that they ought to be allowed to pay 100 to 150 thousand dollar a year salaries."

So I said, "I think you are right." I said, "What do you think

should be the top limit?"

"Well," he said, "I think 50 thousand dollars a year."

And I said, "How can you -- can you enforce that?"

He said, "Perfectly simple."

I said, "It isn't a law."

"No," he said, "it isn't a law, except that I am the lender, and I have the right to state what the terms of my loan will be. And I am going to tell these roads that are coming to the Government to keep out of the bankruptcy court, that they can't pay in all conscience -- they can't pay those large salaries. They have got to come down to 50 thousand."

Well, there was an awful howl -- perfectly terrible -- on the part of the railroad executives.

So Jesse came in to see me one day, and he said, "I think that this whole thing can be cleared up if we put a top limit, not of 50 thousand but of 60 thousand."

And every president of every railroad except one agreed, in the interest of his stockholders, to come down to 60 thousand a year maximum salary.

Now that was the emergency of the bankruptcy of a road. Today we have an emergency which is more serious, and that is the bankruptcy of the nation through the loss of a war, or the saving of a nation by the winning of a war.

And under this particular ruling we would put the maximum salary, not at 60 thousand dollars, which was the old thing that was done by executive action, but at 67 thousand, 200 dollars.

Now that's another way of putting it, and I wonder very much how

that story would be written.

Q Mr. President, do you anticipate making a radio address in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, probably some time this month.

Q This month? Thank you, sir.

Q Mr. President, what would be a similarly ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) In other words, before January 1st. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, what would be an accurate statement of the income limitation as applied to income from sources other than salary?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, there's an awful lot of kick going around the country about the fellow who has got his income more or less fixed because he is getting a salary, and the fellow who is getting a much larger income just out of invested or inherited securities not being held down at all. That is a very widespread complaint all around the country, and I am very curious to know what the Congress is going to do about it.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Miss May Craig and Tom Reynolds) Isn't that wicked? Isn't that wicked?

MR. T. REYNOLDS: Yes, very wicked.

THE PRESIDENT: And that all goes down in the record! (laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #865
Executive Office of the President
December 4, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to the newspapermen as they filed in) Good morning.

Good morning.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only two things this morning, both of them of very little importance.

There is one that might be considered an example to other branches of the Government, and to individuals -- companies -- in every part of the land. We have been trying -- honestly trying, since last -- beginning of the year, to cut down on gas. And the White House automobiles which -- including Mac's, Steve's and everybody else's -- in 19 -- in November 1941 traveled 18 thousand, 403 miles, in November 1942 traveled only 10 thousand, 733 miles. In other words, as I say, charity begins at home. That doesn't mean just my home, it means your homes too. It's a cut nearly -- nearly in half.

Q Mr. President, how many cars is that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there have been -- there have been 2 given up. One wasn't used -- two of them are not used. That's a net gain of 4, and there are --- (to himself): 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 --- 13 cars.

Q Mr. President, does that include the mail cars?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes, it does.

Q Is that 13 left without the 4 not being used?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

The other thing is a letter to (Major) General (Philip B.) Fleming, head of the Public Works (Federal Works Agency).

(reading): "In my annual message to the Congress 7 years ago, I outlined the principles of a Federal work relief program. The Work Projects Administration was established in May, 1935,...."

You remember that followed the emergency measures of '33 and '34.

(continuing reading): "The Government accepted the responsibility..."

Wait a minute.

(continuing reading): ".....and it has followed these basic principles through the years. The Government accepted the responsibility of providing useful employment for those who were able and willing to work but who could find no opportunities in private industry.

"Seven years ago I was convinced that providing useful work is superior to any and every kind of dole. Experience has amply justified this policy.

"By building airports, schools, highways, parks; making huge quantities of clothing for the unfortunate; serving millions of lunches to schoolchildren; almost immeasurable kinds and quantities of service of all kinds, the Work Projects Administration has reached a creative hand into every county in the nation. It has added to the national wealth, repaired the wastage of depression, strengthened the country to bear the burden of war. By employing 8 millions of Americans, with 30 millions of dependents, it has brought to these people renewed hope and courage; maintained and increased their working skill, enabling them once more to take their rightful places in public or private employment.

"Every employable American should be employed at prevailing wages in war industries or farms, or in other private and public employment. The Work Projects Administration rolls have greatly decreased -- through the tremendous increase in private employment, assisted by the training

and re-employment efforts of its own organization -- to a point where a national work relief program is no longer necessary. Certain groups of workers still remain on the rolls who may have to be given assistance by States and localities. Others will be able to find work on farms or in industry, at prevailing rates of pay, as private employment continues to increase. Some of the present certified war projects may have to be taken over by other units of the Federal Works Agency, or other departments of the Federal Government. State or local projects should be closed out by completing useful units of such projects, or by arranging for the sponsors to carry on the work.

"With these considerations in mind, I agree that you should direct the prompt liquidation of the affairs of the Work Projects Administration, thereby conserving a large amount of the funds appropriated to this organization. This will necessitate closing out all project operations in many States by February 1, 1943, and in other States as soon thereafter as feasible. By taking this action there will be no need to provide project funds for the Work Projects Administration in the budget for the next fiscal year.

"I am proud of the Work Projects Administration organization. It has displayed courage and determination in the face of uninformed criticism. The knowledge and experience of this organization will be of great assistance in the consideration of a well-rounded public works program for the post-war period.

"With the satisfaction of a good job well done, and with a high sense of integrity, the Work Projects Administration has asked for and earned an honorable discharge."

Q Mr. President, do you recall what the appropriation was for this current

fiscal year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't -- but nobody knows.

Q Roughly around a billion (dollars), I think, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know. No. No. I don't think so. Way below that, I think. I don't know, it may have been up to that. I am not sure. You had better look it up.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about manpower?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Soon.

Q Mr. President, have you given out any instructions yet as to how much, if any, holiday Government employees may have Christmas?

THE PRESIDENT: As I remember it, the Director of the Budget and I agreed it should be (just) Christmas Day.

Q Mr. President, have you any comment on the House passage of a bill to include farm wages in parity prices?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than what I read in the papers. Of course, the first thing to do is to find out what effect it will have on our cost of living.

Q Mr. President, will you comment sir, on some of the printed criticism -- (here the President cupped his hand to his ear) -- will you comment, sir, on some of the printed criticism that there has been, regarding the advisability of revealing on December 6 many of the details on the Pearl Harbor incident, on the ground that it would give the Japanese cause for exultation, or celebration?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask -- ask Elmer. (laughter)

Q Where's Elmer?

Q Where's Elmer?

Q Ask him now? (Mr. Elmer Davis was sitting behind the President)

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is coming through with a story pretty soon. He has got that look in his eye. (turning to Mr. Davis): Maybe a couple of stories, right?

MR. ELMER DAVIS: A couple of stories.

THE PRESIDENT: A couple of stories. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about the forthcoming visit of Mr. -- Prime Minister -- Prime Minister -- Mr. (W. L. Mackenzie) King of Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: He arrived this morning. I got talking to him, that's why I am late. (laughter) And we are going to have just a nice, quiet weekend -- just a very old friend -- talking about a great many things, including -- including some of the deeper problems of humanity -- human life in the days to come after the war; remembering always that the people of Canada and the people of the United States essentially have the same problems.

Q Aside from those problems, you might also give thought to economics, or some further elaboration of the Hyde Park agreement?

THE PRESIDENT: Not details. Objectives.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the immigration phase of your war powers request, to which there seems to be some objection in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is anything much to talk about. All we want is the right -- Oh, I suppose two or three dozen people in the year -- bring them in here for strengthening the war effort, that's all. I can't imagine anybody saying any more than that. That has been stated, and I don't care how it is worded. That -- again, the objective.

Q Is that what all the shouting is about in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all. That's all.

Q Mr. President, may we expect anything on the food administrator ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) May what?

Q May we expect anything on the food administrator shortly?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Soon. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you define that word "soon"?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon! (more laughter)

Q Mr. (William) Green (A.F.L. president) said yesterday, "very quickly."

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe very quickly.

Q (interposing) He went so far, sir, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I won't make any promises.

Q (continuing) He went so far as to say "a matter of a very few days."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope you are right. I will -- I am going to try to make you right, but I won't guarantee it. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #866
Executive Offices of the President
December 8, 1942 -- 3.05 P.M.,E.W.T.

Q (to Mr. Early) Any work today?

MR. EARLY: Got some. Did as much as I could for you.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you see the picture in The New Yorker of the backs of all your heads? (an excellent cartoon by Gluyas Williams, page 18, issue of December 5, 1942)

Q We appreciated it very much. (laughter)

Q Better picture of you, Mr. President.

Q There were a lot of indignant denials of that picture too.

THE PRESIDENT: Were there some who recognized themselves?

Q No. Other people recognized other people. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think your necks are stretched.

Q Not today, sir.

Q Craned.

THE PRESIDENT: That picture had them all stretched out.

Q Just craned. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There's an old phrase about sticking your neck out, and you ought to know it by this time. (much laughter)

Q That's the best thing we do.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Actually I have two or three things today.

I have a letter -- which Steve has had mimeographed for you -- from the Alien Property Custodian, that gives quite a clear picture in regard to foreign patents; and I think on the whole it can be generally approved. It seems to be a pretty good pattern for the handling of enemy patents, not only at the present time but also for

the -- for the future. Steve will have that for you. It's too long for me to read -- it's 3 pages.

Then I have -- I just want to give you a memorandum that I wrote out. Have you had that mimeographed too, Steve?

MR. EARLY: It's ready, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You can -- it's to get rid of a certain amount of misinformation and worry on the part of workers in war industries or shifting to war industries.

It says, "One of the ways in which we can encourage skilled workers in civilian industries to shift to employment in war plants, is to see to it that when victory has been won employees can return to their peacetime work without loss of all of the seniority rights which they have accumulated over the years.

"All of us are conscious of the great need for additional manpower to make munitions of war, which our own forces and those of our Allies so desperately need. All our people want to do their part, and realize that a job in a war industry is making a direct contribution to winning the war. Many workers have, over the years, accumulated valuable rights to their jobs. Seniority privileges have become an institution in American history -- industry.

"This was recognized when the Selective Service Act was passed. It was thought by the Congress only fair that men who gave up their jobs to enter the Army and Navy should have the maximum protection, so that when they returned they could step back into their jobs with a minimum loss. Valuable re-employment and seniority rights are protected under the Selective Service Act. And I think the same protection should be accorded to a worker wherever possible who leaves

his job to accept employment to help with the war effort, frequently away from home, and at times under less favorable conditions. I think that employers in civilian industries would -- will be willing to give the same assurances to their employees who leave for war work as they are giving to employees who are leaving to join the Armed Services. By so doing they can perform a great service to the Government at this time."

I think that ought to be said, because there is a great deal of misconception in regard to it.

Then the other thing I have is to you people, to correct a wrong for me.

There have been an awful lot of statements given out that lead to a wrong impression all through the country, in regard to the number of civilians that are being employed by the Government of the United States. In other words, we have seen figures that there are two and a half million people on the Government rolls -- civilians -- with the implication, which is the falsehood of it, that all of these people are -- I don't know, what? -- "brass hats," or employed in nice, soft Government jobs. That is definitely the -- the principal implication in these stories that are given out from time to time.

So I asked the statistics people to let me have a little breakdown. And, for example, even reading just a few items in this breakdown will give to the people of this country a more true picture, and disabuse their minds of certain white lies that have been told them; it's a half-truth, but not all the truth.

It is perfectly true, there are about two and a half million people out of civilian life that are employed by the Government. Of

these, a million of them -- actually it's -- it's 60%. It's just under a million, and the other figure is just over a million and a half. 60% of them are working at production jobs for the Army and Navy, and others are working in production jobs for other departments of the Government. That list of two and a half million includes all the workers at all the Navy Yards, and all the workers at all the arsenals, and so forth, that are working three shifts a day turning out munitions. Well, Garand rifles -- 90% of all the -- all the Garand rifles are being made -- are made by Government employees. 90% of our -- No, 75% of our battleships are being built in Navy Yards, just as examples.

Now, in Washington, which is often cited as the sink-hole of iniquity -- (laughter) -- maybe in some ways, but not on employment -- (more laughter) -- only 12% of all the Government employees are in Washington; 88% are outside of Washington. Since Pearl Harbor, the number of employees in Washington has only increased by 80 thousand; and in the same period the increase outside of Washington was 920 thousand. And nearly all of those outside of Washington, of course, are engaged in production.

However, there are certain other things we have to remember. You take the Services of Supply in the Army and Navy, and so forth. There are about 890 thousand civilian employees in that -- only 5% of them in Washington. The Army Air Force we think of as a uniform force, but it had 220 thousand civilian employees to keep it going, nearly all of them outside of Washington.

Taking the Navy, we have 518 thousand civilian employees, of which more than 90% are employed in the shipyards, all the air stations,

and the torpedo stations, and the naval manufacturing plants. Only 9% of all the civilian employees of the Navy are located in the metropolitan area of Washington, including the Washington gun factory -- Navy Yard. Of course, by civilian use, I mean not Army or Navy.

317 thousand people are in the Post Office Department, which is not an increase over former days, but they run the mails and the delivery of the mails. That hasn't gone up, but it accounts for quite -- quite a substantial portion of all the Government employees. We have to remember that nearly -- that a very large number -- most of the Veterans' Administration employees are in a civilian capacity. They haven't increased; though of course very soon they will, to take care of the veterans of this war.

And so all (I want) -- I have got a whole lot of figures here that are not of tremendous interest -- is to point out to the public that they shouldn't believe the story when they are told that the Government has just taken on these added hundreds of thousands -- several millions of civilian employees who are holding down soft, desk jobs. Most of them are actually at work on production, just as much as civilian employees in a private munitions plant are at work on production of the things we need to win the war.

So you can go ahead and make any old story out of that, but try to get the idea across.

Q Mr. President, could you review one figure here, where you said 60% of some number is employed in production jobs?

THE PRESIDENT: Over a million and a half, which is the same as saying over 60% of all of the civilian employees are working at production jobs. Now that doesn't include Services of Supply, running the mails, and so

forth and so on.

Q Mr. President, today General (Francisco) Franco (of Spain) made a speech, in which he re-affirms Spain's ties with Germany and Italy -- their solidarity with Germany and Italy. And in view of the message which he sent you after the occupation of Africa, I wondered if you would have any comment?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so.

Q Mr. President, have you anything you could say about the use -- regarding the French fleet both at Toulon and Dakar, now that you have --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I thought the Secretary of the Navy had answered the question last Friday when -- I think it was when I said that I had no figures to give out. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, Montgomery Ward (and Company) today refused to accept your suggestion that they include a maintenance of membership provision in their contract, unless the words "we accept this under duress" are included; and the Labor War [Board?] has refused to permit that. Do you have any comment?

NCR 2-14-57

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it, except ---

Q (interjecting) It just happened.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- about two weeks ago when I wrote them a letter, they said on this they would do what I asked.

Q They refused this morning.

THE PRESIDENT: They had accepted ---

Q (interposing) They had accepted your proposal, and when it came to negotiating it, they insisted on the words "we accept under duress."

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it. Did they accept, or did they reverse their position?

Q They reversed their position.

THE PRESIDENT: I see. I will have to find out about it.

Q Mr. President, have you received a communication from the Colorado Congressional delegation, regarding the Thompson Canyon project? The W.P.B. (War Production Board) has canceled it.

THE PRESIDENT: That tunnel thing?

Q I think that's it. I am not sure, sir, the exact description of it, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- but they wrote a letter to the White House asking that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't heard from them, but as to the tunnel thing, I did have word from the Secretary of the Interior on it, to this general effect.

As I understand it, the W.P.B. withdrew that from the list of Government projects that they were to go ahead with. And I got a letter from the Secretary of the Interior -- I guess this is the same thing -- pointing out that the tunnel is to be -- it's a water tunnel -- to be 13 miles long, and they have done 10 thousand -- 13 miles long, and they have done 10 miles of it; that they don't need any more materials, but they do want to hole through the other 3 miles, because if they don't the upper end of the tunnel -- the western end -- will get full of water, which would seriously -- might seriously damage it -- cracks and everything -- unless they keep it pumped out; and if they once hole through the final 3 miles, they won't have to pump it out, because it will drain itself.

And he recommends that it would be cheaper for the Government

to finish the 3 miles, and not have to pump, than it would be to stop where we are now and have to keep it free of water. Well, that's -- that's where the thing is at the present time. It's being reviewed.

Q Mr. President, have you had any further information about absenteeism in Government war plants?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not since you asked me the question.

Q Well, sir, these figures have come to my attention -- in a Douglas, California, plant that is two months old -- that indicate, sir, that 780 thousand manhours were lost out there in October, which would be enough to build 41 Boston bombers; which indicated to me, in view of Mr. Donald Nelson's remarks about being a little disappointed in aircraft production, that you might have some comment?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because the figures may mean something, and they may not. In the Washington Navy Yard, or the Willow Run plant, or any other large organization, it is perfectly possible to figure out that the turn-over in labor at all times -- good and bad -- would build 41 bombers, or 2 railroad trains, or 50 thousand cravats, or what-not.

In other words, the figures mean nothing unless you will bring them to me after this, and let me have them, and then I will analyze them -- get somebody, I won't do it myself -- and I will analyze them for you.

Q Thank you, sir. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #867
Executive Office of the President
December 11, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (looking up from reading as the newspapermen filed in) I haven't finished my homework.

Q Yes, sir. (laughter) (the President continued reading as more newspapermen filed in)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sending up to the Senate and House today the Report of Lend-Lease Operations for the period ended December 11, (1942). You will have to do a little work to dig out what you can from it.

There are two things here that rather struck me, that we have got up to 2 billion, 367 million for the past 3 months' period, which is a third higher than the figure for the previous quarter.

And there is a mention in here of the fact that by the end of this month we will have more than one million men over-seas.

If you are interested in more figures and things, you will have to dig them out.

MR. GODWIN: That's all in there, isn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

Then I have appointed a special committee which will probably be able to do its work -- won't take very long, I think -- perhaps a month -- on draft deferment of Federal employees, consisting of three gentlemen, in order that they can work out a uniform, nation-wide policy and practice, to govern the requests for occupational deferments from induction in the military service, especially those persons employed by the Federal Government. Mr. Paul Bellamy is the Chairman; Mr. Ordway Tead, and Mr. Eric Johnston of the United States Chamber of

Commerce.

In the formulation of a policy, the committee is being asked to give consideration to standards of determining,

A, whether an employee is actually performing duties that are critically essential to the war effort.

Secondly, whether the employee can be replaced by others who are not eligible for military service.

And third, whether the employee's skills and abilities can best be used to make his maximum contribution in the total war program in his civilian assignment, or in military service.

The committee will work very closely with the War Manpower Commission, including its regional and local facilities, in order to relate the requests for deferment to the general draft deferment policies that are applied to non-Government citizens.

The objective is to assure the establishment of sound policies, and adequate machinery for quickly applying these policies to individual cases, so that the Government service, the employees affected and the public can be certain that occupational deferments of Federal employees are permitted only in bona fide cases of essential employment, where effective replacement is impossible.

MR. GODWIN: Sir, why didn't you leave that with the Manpower Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Because it requires a rather special study.

MR. GODWIN: Special.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It isn't a permanent thing ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Oh, I see.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- to work it out.

MR. GODWIN: May I ask you a question? I was -- we are all very much inter-

ested in the stopping of enlistments. And the last time that I spoke to naval officers about enlistments they liked the enlistment idea, on the ground that the natural-born seaman, born in the Middle West, wants to go to sea. He may not have seen a ship, but he is a good -- a naturally good sailor. And ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, and from the ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- that seems to have stopped.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Rocky Mountain States too. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Have you anything interesting to say about that? Does it -- does it hurt the Navy, or does it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. I tell you -- I tell you quite frankly, it won't hurt the Navy at all. I suppose I might put it this way. It's a matter of sentiment connected with it -- purely personal sentiment; because in the First World War the question came up from the very inception of the war, as to whether the Navy should come under the selective draft of that day and age, and I thought it would be grand if we could recruit the Navy right through the War. And we did, but we only got up to a total of about 515 thousand men.

And so when this war came along, it was a matter of sentiment on my part. And we did manage, through the enlistment process, to get up to a million men; but the time came when I had to discard sentiment and end enlistments.

And of course on this -- this Selective Draft, it doesn't mean that everybody who prefers to go into the Navy will get into the Navy, but we don't know the proportions of what service people are going to ask for. But in all probability the -- the overwhelming number of people from Kansas, let us say, who have been born and brought up on salt water

will go -- (laughter) -- and from Utah -- in the great -- the overwhelming majority of cases, if they say they want to go into the Navy, they will go into the Navy.

MR. GODWIN: I saw 14 hundred boys -- Mid-West boys -- recruited in one day out there in the Great Lakes, and not one of them had ever seen salt water.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they make pretty good sailors.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, they would.

May I ask you another question? I don't want to monopolize this -- then I am through for the day. There is a letter-writer in the Washington Post this morning, suggesting the name "Victory Building" for the Pentagon Building. I thought that was an interesting suggestion.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't thought of it.

MR. GODWIN: It's a good suggestion.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't thought of it. Of course, one of my friends always calls it the "Pentateuchal Building." (laughter)

Q What about calling it the "Marathon Building"? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Then I -- Steve (Early) has got for you a copy of a letter that I sent to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, in regard to this personnel problem here in Washington. If you want details of it, get hold of (Wm. H.) McReynolds. He will tell you all about it. But the fact remains that on the -- I will just read the first -- the first paragraph.

(reading): "The Government, which is the largest single employer in the nation, has permitted a condition to develop regarding rates of pay, hours of work, and overtime compensation for its civilian employees which is grossly unfair, is one of the major causes of the needlessly

high personnel turn-over, and is impeding the successful prosecution of the war effort."

And then it lists 3 examples -- 3 problems which have created injustices.

And, of course, the problem has been kicking around up on the Hill for a long time. They have known about it, but there has been no agreement; and this letter is to ask them please to do something about it. But I hate to have these injustices continue.

I am not at all sure that they will take any action before the -- the -- this Congress expires. Anyway this letter is for the record. We have done the best we could to correct injustices, and Congress has taken no action. And the whole thing is listed in the letter.

And finally, somebody asked about Mr. Phillips -- William Philipps going to India. He is going from his present work as my Personal Representative to serve, as they call it in the State Department, "near the government of India" -- which is State Department language. He belongs to the career service -- went in in 1903, served in the Far East and Europe, and has been, as you know, Under Secretary of State, I think two different times. And he was in Rome at the outbreak of the war.

He will have the personal rank of Ambassador, because he has been that several times. He goes to New Delhi in the near future, and assumes charge of the American Mission that was established there in November, 1941 -- over a year ago. Mr. Thomas Wilson was the first Chief of that Mission, and Louis Johnson served later for a short time, until he was taken ill.

And there is no truth in rumors that he will carry any -- Mr. Phillips

will carry any special plan or formula for the solution of the Indian problem. He will perform the regular duties of an American diplomatic representative abroad. And that's all there is to that.

Q Mr. President, have you received word from the Montgomery Ward (and Company) people, or the War Labor Board, on their contract?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. (then turning to Mr. Early)

MR. EARLY: I haven't, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q (interposing) Have you got any report on the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) No, none at all.

Q (continuing) --- on North Africa, that the anti-Vichyites have not been released?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q There are reports that 25 thousand are still in prison.

THE PRESIDENT: I would take that with a "grain of salt."

Q Mr. President, there is a ticker report this morning that the Pope has asked you to see to it that Rome is not bombed. Anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I would take that with a "grain of salt" too. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us something about your talk the other night with the Cuban President (Fulgencio Batista)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we had a very satisfactory talk, and which included, especially, the very good effort on the part of Cuba to take care of -- Oh, fifth columnists, falangists, and spies. We are working very closely with them, and the situation down there in that respect is very well under control.

Q What was the type of person you mentioned after fifth columnists?

THE PRESIDENT: Fifth columnists.

VOICES: (interjecting) Falangists.

THE PRESIDENT: Falangists. And that is just one variety of fifth columnists down there.

MR. MERRIMAN SMITH: Mr. President, do you contemplate issuing a directive which will give the materials necessary for the synthetic rubber program priority over other material in the war effort, such as airplane material ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What would you do?

MR. MERRIMAN SMITH: (hesitating a moment, and then somewhat restrained) I am not President, sir. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in other words, here -- it's a perfectly simple proposition -- (laughing again at Mr. Smith's answer) -- for you or for me. You have got, I suppose, a half-dozen things that you regard as absolutely essential. And May (Craig) over there has got a half-dozen other things that she says are absolutely essential to win the war. And Jim (Wright) over here has got a different list of things necessary to win the war.

Now on all these things we have to leave it to a combination of the production people, and -- and I suppose the easiest way of putting it is the joint Chiefs of Staff. Somebody in authority has got to list the priorities. There isn't enough stuff to go around for them all, so we have to do the best we can. And that is why you can't say -- you can't put -- you can't put rubber ahead of airplanes. The thing is being worked out by the experts. I am not an expert, and none of us here are. We are doing the best we can. You can't say that one particular article of war is infinitely more important than any other.

Q Do you plan to send your new Supreme Court nomination while this Congress is in session?

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad you reminded me of it. I will have to take it up. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, with respect to the joint Chiefs of Staff, they would, I presume, have no responsibility with respect to civilian use of synthetic rubber, would they?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: You would have to go beyond, or behind, or along with them, if you wanted to determine how much steel is necessary to expand the synthetic rubber process, isn't that so?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Yes, but it always comes down in the last analysis to what the Army or Navy people say, to go ahead ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- or something else.

Just take a simple thing. Suppose you have the priority on building a rubber plant -- the machinery. And this is mostly a case of machinery, it isn't the walls of the plant, or the power for the plant -- it's the machinery within the plant. Now that is very, very essential. And it's -- from your point of view or mine, it's pretty important that -- that planes have tires. At the same time it's awfully important, when those planes are getting tires, that they also have octane gas so that they can fly. Now octane gas calls for machinery too, to build a plant for that. Now what do you do when there is only enough machinery to go around for a half of each plant? Well, you have to leave that to the military and naval.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, they have to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- that's what I would like to know. You would need to have rules then?

THE PRESIDENT: Primarily in time of war.

Q Mr. President, during your luncheon yesterday, did you ask Senator (George W.) Norris (Independent of Nebraska) to remain in the Government after the expiration of his term?

THE PRESIDENT: No, ---

Q (interjecting) Do you expect to do so?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- we talked about the great necessity, from the point of view of many of us, that he should continue his very, very useful life in talking to the people of this country and of the world, because he has something that very few people have got. He has got an audience, and secondly he has got a story to tell. Now when one person has those two things, he ought not to quit and go home just because he is 81 years old.

Q Are you suggesting, Mr. President, that he become a columnist?

(much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. I did -- I did tell him that even <u>he</u> couldn't write interestingly and truthfully a column three times a week. Nobody can, or have I said that before? (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: How about Mark Sullivan?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: How about Mark Sullivan? He is with us. How about Mark Sullivan? You haven't spoken of him for a long time.

THE PRESIDENT: What about that Mark? (laughter)

(Mr. Sullivan's attempted reply was inaudible in the general laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) He's right here.

THE PRESIDENT: I see the top of his head back here. (more laughter)

(Mr. Sullivan attenpted to reply again, but it was inaudible)

THE PRESIDENT: Keep right at it, Mark. You're coming strong. Keep on trying! (again more laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: That's all right.

(continued laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #868
Executive Office of the President
December 15, 1942 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

(the Chinese Ambassador, Wao Tao-Ming, was a guest at this Press Conference)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early) Are you giving them a copy of it? (the longhand message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek)

MR. EARLY; They may have it, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir. They may have it.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have -- I have broken a rule of many years standing today. I have written a longhand letter. (See addendum) I did it at the suggestion of the Chinese Minister, in honor of the opening of the first radio or telephoto service between here and China. It's -- and Steve will give you a copy of it -- it's a one-page letter to the Generalissimo; and it will, I suppose, be in Chungking inside of an hour, or an hour and a half, which as you know will be -- will be tomorrow, on account of the difference in time. And we think it's quite -- quite a feat, quite an interesting thing that we have started this new bond of communication with the people of China, and hope very much that in a fairly short time all the people of China will get it.

I don't think I have anything else today, except a cold in the nose. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about the reports that Senator (Prentiss) Brown may succeed Leon Henderson?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't think I have any news on that at all.

Q Well, could you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) I don't think I will for some time, anyway.

Q Would you care to prognosticate a bit about it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, ---

Q (continuing) --- Mr. Brown's future?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I couldn't possibly, because I don't know.

Q Aside from Mr. Brown, Mr. President, is there any basis in truth that -- for the report that Mr. Henderson has given you a letter, or indicated that he is ready to resign?

THE PRESIDENT: That I have not -- that is not true at all.

Q That, sir, is what?

THE PRESIDENT: Is not true at all.

Q Mr. President, we were given today the text of a letter by which you designate Mr. (James F.) Byrnes as your agent to settle any disagreements arising over the food program. Will he also have a similar job to that in connection with the manpower program?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think -- the other is in the law.

Q (interposing) I believe, sir, your Executive Order ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think ---

Q (continuing) --- extending the Manpower Commission's power also provided for any disagreements to be submitted to you or your agent ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, ---

Q (continuing) --- in much the same way.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- there hasn't been any disagreement yet, so I don't know what the machinery will be. It might be myself. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, in connection with the manpower thing, have there been any

strategical developments in the war that might lead to reconsideration of the size of the Army? I am thinking of that 7 (million), 5 (hundred thousand), which some people have said was too high for supplying it, and so forth.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw a distinguished Frenchman (Pierre Cot, former Minister of Aviation) suggested that the other day, that the cause of the fall of France was that they had too many men in the army -- too large an army, and that the civilian population did not furnish enough supplies. I think it's a very -- very amazing statement as the cause for the fall of France, and an equally amazing statement for anybody on the Hill to apply to this country. I saw also it was suggested that if we did attempt to raise, train, and equip a large enough Army from the military point of view, that it might "discombobolate" our domestic economies. I think that statement speaks for itself, as something that will not be -- that thought -- popular in this country in the middle of a very serious war.

Q Mr. President, do you have any reports that former President of France (Albert) Le Brun has escaped to a neutral country?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't heard it. Didn't know it.

Q Mr. President, do you have any reports on the sinking of the transport PRESIDENT COOLIDGE? An official of the line said today that it sank as a result of hitting an American mine.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. How did -- how did an official of the line know anything about it?

Q I don't know, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Neither do I.

Q Mr. President, will Mr. (William) Phillips report to you before he goes

to New Delhi?

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe he has.

Q In person, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, he and I are very old friends. I think he knows pretty well why he is going, and I know why he is going; and I think -- I don't think he is coming back here first.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, in saying that he knows why he is going, why is he going?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think I said -- announced that the other day. It was in the paper. (laughter) Put ditto marks after it. (more laughter) Repeat what I said the other day. I am afraid, you know, to repeat from memory, because I might change one or two words, and of course that would be picked up right away. So I think I had better say what I said before -- whatever it was. (more laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

ADDENDUM TO PAGE ONE:

The original longhand letter spelt "generalissimo" with 2 l's. The Press gave this front page coverage.

Also "how" was omitted in the original, and later inserted by the President.

The text was as follows:

My dear Generalissimo:

The once vast distances between our two countries have been successively diminished by the steamship, the radio, the cable, the airplane, and now by this marvel of science which I am utilizing today.

I take this unique chance to tell you how honored the people of this country, including Mrs. Roosevelt and myself, feel to have with us your charming and distinguished wife.

Always sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #869
Executive Office of the President
December 18, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (indicating to the front

Cross on his desk) That's one thin

MR. GODWIN: What is that?

THE PRESIDENT: An Iron Cross -- Iron Cr

MR. GODWIN: Are you going to give it to

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't mind.

MR. GODWIN: I know two or three.

THE PRESIDENT: I know two or three, Yes

MR. GODWIN: I think so. Got to do some

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Got to do something about t

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

(a clipping of John O'Donnell's "Capitol Stuff" for December 16, 1942, was in front of the President, which he was reading. (see addendum) The newspapermen were discussing it in whispers)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything.

Q Mr. President, could you comment on the reports emanating from Lisbon that Mr. (Winston) Churchill is on his way to the United States to confer with you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That sounds like Lisbon.

Q Mr. President, the (Sir William H.) Beveridge Report (on expansion of social security in England) is published today. Do you have any comment to make about it?

NOTE: BE SURE MR. EARLY OR MR. HASSETT PERSONALLY GIVE PERMISSION BEFORE THIS GOES ANYWHERE.

J. ROMAGNA

12-23-42

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #869
Executive Office of the President
December 18, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (indicating to the front-row newspapermen a German Iron Cross on his desk) That's one thing I don't want to put on.

MR. GODWIN: What is that?

THE PRESIDENT: An Iron Cross -- Iron Cross.

MR. GODWIN: Are you going to give it to somebody?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't mind.

MR. GODWIN: I know two or three.

THE PRESIDENT: I know two or three, Yes. We probably know the same people.

MR. GODWIN: I think so. Got to do something about that.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Got to do something about that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

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THE PRESIDENT: No. That sounds like Lisbon.

Q Mr. President, the (Sir William H.) Beveridge Report (on expansion of social security in England) is published today. Do you have any comment to make about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Are you planning to send some extended Social Security legislation to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q Mr. President, does it accord with your views on the subject, that the War Labor Board should have jurisdiction over the demands of the rail unions for wage increases?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There is regular machinery for that, isn't there?

Q The railroad managements, sir, have made representations to the Board that if the unions' demands are handled under separate machinery, there may be discriminations and the purposes of the Anti-Inflation Act may be defeated.

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't worry about that. You have got regular machinery which has worked over a period of years extremely well, and I don't think there will be any conflict. In other words, it's a rather definite policy which will probably be carried out.

Q Mr. President, is Prentiss (M.) Brown (of Michigan) going to succeed Leon Henderson (who just resigned as head of the O.P.A.)?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got anything on that at the present time.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, I have an interesting question on that, not so much as to who succeeds whom, or who succeeds who, but is the rationing machinery to be overhauled and revised, or other changes to be made on it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I couldn't tell you that, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, is there ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- because it's being overhauled and revised all the time, as for example, the thing that has just happened -- I understand that -- I haven't seen the actual order -- about "A" (gasoline) cards. I think that it is -- while it says "until further notice," I am inclined to think it will be a very short time -- couple of days, perhaps -- when only commercial gasoline can be sold.

Now, of course, there's a reason behind that, quite aside from the fact that we are trying to use anything that will move and carry gasoline, by sea, or highways, or railroads. There has come a situation in North Africa where the amount of gasoline that has to be shipped over there has to be increased -- transportation problem in Africa -- for our troops. And it's a hurry-up order. And it will take a much longer time to send gasoline from Texas than it would from the Eastern Seaboard. That is one of the things that can't be foreseen in warfare, obviously. And people on the Eastern Seaboard, and in many parts of the country, have probably got to give up pleasure-driving for a day or two, which I am quite sure they will understand.

Q Is this a purely temporary thing, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q Mr. President, is there any likelihood of dividing the powers or the duties that Mr. Henderson has had; that is, price fixing on the one hand and rationing (on the other), and giving it to two people rather than one?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Mr. President, could there be -- speaking hypothetically -- could there be a division of those two, pricing -- price-fixing and rationing, or should they -- do they have to go together?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know. Getting in the realm of theory now, not trying to win the war.

Q To return to gasoline rationing, sir, could you tell us whether the banning of the "A" card use will be simply a matter of days, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

Q (continuing) --- or weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I hope -- I hope a very few days.

Q A very few days.

Q Mr. President, I notice Senator (James M.) Mead (of New York) is coming in for lunch today. Can you tell us anything about it, please?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. Just haven't seen him for quite a long while. He had a nice lunch. (laughter, as Senator Mead came in yesterday for lunch, not today)

Q (aside) That's a good one.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin, picking up the Iron Cross on his desk and handing it to him) Give this to John O'Donnell on behalf of The White House Correspondents' Association. Give it to O'Donnell. It's the Iron Cross of Germany. Just take it out and give it to John O'Donnell for what he said about -- that article about George Durno. It's one of the rottenest things that has ever been done.

MR. GODWIN: I haven't read that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Terrible.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: It's a rotten thing.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

MR. J. M. MINIFIE: I don't read the papers, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. J. M. MINIFIE: I don't read the papers, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Take it out and give it to him. That's genuine too.

ADDENDUM

Excerpt from "Capitol Stuff" by John O'Donnell, in the Washington Times-Herald, dated December 16, 1942.

"There have been times when this column has pondered over the lack of news from some of our energetic colleagues recently turned war correspondents and assigned to cover the big show from front seats in Australia.

"Well, the mystery is solved.

"Take it from Jack Turcott of the New York Daily News, and ex-White House Correspondent George Durno of the I.N.S., now a captain in the Ferrying Division of the Air Transport Command, the boys have turned to flutes and piccolos just to keep their fingers nimble for the time when censorship lets them beat the keys of their portable typewriters to turn out a tell-all story. Writes Jack:

"'I'm having some trouble getting this letter written because Capt. George Durno is sitting next to me playing a flute. Yes, a flute, and Durno, who you know never drinks anything stronger than straight Moxie, has become a flautist since he joined the Army.

"'He's busy the whole day twisting his mouth up into strange shapes and running his slightly rheumy fingers up and down the damn instrument, making the strangest noises imaginable.

"'He tells me that he will write to you today to deny that he's a fluter, but I have proof. I am enclosing a picture showing George with a flute. 'Tis true I'm playing a whistle, but I've been here for 10 months, and in that time it's expected a guy will

go slightly nuts. And a whistle isn't as bad as a flute, is it?

"'This Durno thing came about accidently. Durno pulled in a couple of nights ago, supposedly to inspect something somewhere. Larry Lehrbas, who is busy cutting paper dolls and doodling on perfectly good writing paper, figured out that the best way to get rid of Durno was to send him out to the house where several war correspondents, including me, live. Out came Durno and we haven't been able to get rid of him since. He drank all our Scotch (we had two bottles, and we were saving it to celebrate the armistice some day), and now threatens to start on sterno because it rhymes with his name.'

"Writes Captain Durno (both the boys censor their own stuff, it appears):

"'I have read portions of that libel Jack Turcott has composed. It sounds like something from the pen of George Dixon. All I can say in rebuttal is to repeat the story current here. (Story deleted by editors.)

"'And by way of P. S. I just want to tell you about the hardships being endured by Turcott. It is something terrific. Turcott's bath was drawn by his gentleman's gentleman this morning and was two degrees off temperature.

"'Sincerely, George Durno, blood type B, Protestant.'"

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #870
Executive Office of the President
December 29, 1942 - 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to the Administrative Assistants, et al, seated behind him, and indicating a large four-foot globe, presented to him for Christmas by the U. S. Army) Isn't that a nice globe? Don't you think I ought to start this senior class off on a little geography? Don't you think it would be a very good idea? (much laughter)

MR. NILES: Look how big Africa looks to Europe?

MR. McREYNOLDS: We would be susceptible as students, but not as graduates.

THE PRESIDENT: I had fun with (Captain) John McCrea, saying how far is it from "so and so" to "so and so."

CAPTAIN McCREA: I never did guess, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No, you didn't dare.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: (turning to Mr. Early) Steve, what have I got, anything?

MR. EARLY: Nothing on the shelf, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says "No, nothing doing."

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about your talk with the railroad executives today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that I greeted them and told them I was sure they would do everything they could -- humanly and possibly could to step up the delivery of gasoline in the Northeast. I think they are doing an awfully good job. Maybe they can do a little better job.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us something about your talk with Governor (Ingram M.) Stainback of Hawaii this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there wasn't anything -- working out those problems. You know about them.

Q Martial law ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Can you tell us ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Can you tell us how that is shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: Shaping up all right. I think they will work it out without very much trouble.

Q There will be some relaxation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- then, probably? There will be some relaxation then, probably?

THE PRESIDENT: Certain amount. I think I can say this off the record -- not to be printed, but just for your own personal information if you write for the Hawaii papers -- sometimes there are clashes of personalities, which can be ironed out.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us about that new globe you have got behind you?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, No. I'd -- I would just say one thing. I don't -- it isn't quite high enough for the back part of the room to see it. Any time you want to see it, just come in. (laughter) Perhaps I -- using the old thing -- what was it? -- "Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest." (more laughter) I will have to put it out in the front office for a while, if you want to do some real studying.

Q Fine.

Q Is there anything you can say about your conference with the French representatives this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we were talking about this question of supplies for

the French troops in North Africa, and I think that is going along pretty well. Of course, as I -- as I told them, it's largely a question of shipping. We are doing the best we can to get supplies over there for all of the fighting forces. Certain -- certain complications with the French forces, because they use, for example, a calibre of rifle which is different from ours, and different from the British; ---

Q (interposing) Was there any ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and therefore there is also the possibility of using -- of doing a certain amount of rearmament of forces which have off-size equipment -- doesn't fit our production.

Q Was there any discussion of the question of French unity?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you heard any more, sir, about the possibilities of a visit from General (Charles) de Gaulle?

THE PRESIDENT:

Q Possibilities of a visit from General de Gaulle?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is coming. There is no definite date set.

Q There was a report in London yesterday, sir, that his trip here had been postponed on a request forwarded from Admiral (William D.) Leahy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is not true. It has been -- it has never been settled definitely. It has been postponed twice already. I fully expect to see him very soon.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on Vice President Wallace's speech last night?

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you the honest truth, I haven't read it yet. I have got the thing right in my basket. (indicating)

Q Mr. President, have you -- has it been taken up with you, the possibility of furloughing men in the Services who are now members of State legislatures which will meet this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I got a request yesterday from I think the Governor of Texas (Coke Stevenson), and I sent it over to the -- to the War Department for comment and recommendations. I did call attention to the fact that under the Federal Constitution, and under some State constitutions, one cannot occupy a dual position of legislator and a member of the Armed Forces at the same time. So the thing will be considered on that basis.

Q Did the letter state, Mr. President, how many members of the Texas legislature are in the Armed Services?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better check. My recollection -- but this is pure recollection -- is that there are 40 (17 members, according to the letter, dated December 23), something like that. You had better check though; I may be wrong.

Q Mr. President, can you give us any idea about your State of the Union Message, and your Budget Message?

THE PRESIDENT: Neither of them written, and neither of them added up. I expect to get busy in the course of the next -- well, next 24 hours, on both of them, and work right on through until probably the late evening of the sixth of January.

Q Do you plan to go to the Hill personally for the State of the Union Message?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so.

MR. P. BRANDT: There have been reports, sir, that you are going to ask for cuts in non-war expenditures.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Pete, I don't know how people get that way.

MR. P. BRANDT: I will tell you. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There are always -- always two things to remember. The first is that during the last few years we have been making steady and continuous cuts in non-war Government expenditures. Oh, last year we cut out I think it was over a billion dollars; and we are continuing.

And the second -- the second thing is -- I don't care, if you want to start an argument about it, that's fine -- I don't think people will be terribly interested -- what is a war expenditure? Same old story: what is a war expenditure? Won't all agree.

Well, for example -- I will just use some of these old things -- the Federal supervision of meat. Is that a war expenditure or not? I mean for -- for home consumption; I am not talking about meat for the troops. Well, I don't know.

The money that is being spent to control the white pine blister rust! Well, obviously, that isn't -- that isn't a war expenditure. But what does the Congress want to do about it?

If they don't continue to control the white pine blister rust, in the course of a year or two, probably, it will have destroyed a very large sum -- it depends -- even hundreds of millions of dollars -- in the growing of a tree which won't obtain its majority for another 50 years. Is it worth doing it, or not? I don't know. That is up to the Congress. And I don't know anybody except the Congress that can say whether that is a necessary expenditure, in time of war, or not.

MR. P. BRANDT: What about the Anti-Trust Division, R.E.A., and some of those?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, after all, are we going to carry out laws that have been on the statute books for -- I don't know when the first anti-trust laws went into effect, I think it was way back in the early nineties or eighties -- half a century ago. And I think both Parties were opposed to monopolistic practices that were in restraint of trade.

And all administrations have had a lot of money to enforce the laws. Some of them enforced them a little more strongly than others, some a little more leniently -- and I am being awfully polite. (laughter)

And it's a question. If Congress wants to leave the statutes on the -- on the statute books and provides no money, or an insufficient amount of money to enforce them, the responsibility, of course, should be placed exactly where it would belong in that event -- on the Congress. That's a matter for Congressional determination.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Pete (Brandt), you didn't know what you were starting! (laughter)

(many newspapermen came over and looked at the globe, and the President explained it to them a little)